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Yeltsin Comments on Reform, Nuclear Test Ban

Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Arkhangelsk Oblast 28 April to find out how "people are reacting to the policy of reforms" in the North, Russian Television notes. Addressing a crowd in Severodvinsk, the president assured that "in a week or 10 days" the government would "make a few corrections to the reform" process, "ease up a bit on a few matters" for the policies of the initial period had been "very severe." Commenting on the reduction of military needs and establishments, Yeltsin reassured the people of Severodvinsk that their nuclear submarine enterprise was "the national wealth of all Russia and...we will not allow it to die," ITAR-TASS reports. The moratorium on nuclear tests "remained in force," Yeltsin stated, and that now Russia and France "could exert strong pressure on the United States to end tests." During his visit to Washington in June Yeltsin said he would hold talks on "either a complete ban on nuclear tests...or on a minimum level and quanitity for them."

Shaposhnikov, Chernavin Cited on Black Sea Fleet

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, concerning the Black Sea Fleet talks which begin in Odessa 29 April. He said he will not be attending, because "the military at such talks is having a completely inappropriate effect." In terms of dividing the Fleet, Shaposhnikov believes Ukraine should receive "up to 20 percent. And the rest should be handed over to the CIS Joint Armed Forces, since each country has the right to make such a claim..." As for Ukraine's claim to contributing 18 percent to the USSR's military budget, Shaposhnikov said, "I doubt that very much."

Moscow international radio carries an interview with Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, commander of the Commonwealth Navy, on the division of the Black Sea Fleet. He feels, "If such a division happens this will lead, in the final count, to the death of the Black Sea Fleet", since "Ukraine is unable to guarantee the combat readiness of the Fleet on the scale it claims...it will be forced to eliminate most of [the ships] and thus weaken this militarily important and intensive naval theater." Chernavin believes the talks should focus on the issue of "defense capability and combat readiness," "not ambition."

Ukraine Not Influenced by U.S. Pressure

UKRINFORM carries a report on a news conference given by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. In it he "rejected the allegations of some foreign journalists that Ukraine resumed the transfer of nuclear tactical weapons under pressure from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker." He stated, "Moscow mass media, not always correctly interpreting decisions of the Ukraine leadership, is misinforming the world community and the foreign press." Kravchuk said he had talked with James Baker twice and they had "no differences. We discussed all the problems and reached agreement."

Armenia Issues Statement on Use of Chemical Weapons

The Armenian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement regarding allegations made through the Azerbaijani media that "the self-defense forces of Nagorno-Karabakh have used shells filled with cyanide against the Azerbaijani Army," Yerevan radio reports. The statement calls the allegations "disinformation" and expresses Armenia's concern that "this propaganda's aim might be to prepare international public opinion for Azerbaijan's use of chemical weapons in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in the future."

Russian Rocket Exports to India Under Discussion

A "Foreign Ministry expert" said "Russia is not inclined to violate" the Missile Control Technology Regime, INTERFAX reports. Russia and India "are engaged in consultations" on "exporting Russian rocket technology" to "alleviate the anxiety of participants in the regime." While the consultations are going on the "Russian leadership" has decided to "suspend" deliveries of "booster rocket machinery." State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis, who is scheduled to visit India 3-5 May, "might include negotiations on the possibility of further deliveries of Russian space equipment" in his talks.

Nuclear Submarines Fail Safety Standards

OW2804130792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1253 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By reporters M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev, and others from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Nuclear reactors on board submarines belonging to the joint CIS Armed Forces fail to conform to international safety standards. The danger of accidents fraught with very serious consequences lurks in their very design. DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent learned this from a leading expert in this area, 43-year-old captain who served for about a quarter of a century in the Northern Fleet.

He agreed with the outlook of his American colleagues who gave a sharply negative assessment of the technical condition of nuclear reactors on board the formerly Soviet submarines in one of the latest issues of the "Parade" magazine. They believe that the main threat stems from the imperfect reactors, not from the missiles the subs are equipped with.

According to the Russian expert, the main error committed in the design of Soviet subs lay in the striving to make them as small as possible. Due to a number of technical reasons to install nuclear reactors in small-size subs heightens the risk of emergencies and processes that cannot be controlled. As for the U.S., it chose a different road: greater volume of active zone for the reactor and greater size for the subs.

The expert mentioned a number of design faults that heighten the possibility of accidents on board the submarines built by the former USSR: from the screening of inner network cables to the automatic system of protection against accidents.

According to him, the situation is even more dramatic since the authorities actually shut their eyes to the dangers of naval service for many years. The so-called "intradepartmental commissions" formed to examine the state of affairs sought to refrain from washing dirty linen in public.

The former naval officer and specialist in nuclear physics described the practice of banking on the youth and enthusiasm of recruits in the naval service as immoral. According to him, most sailors in the Northern Fleet have no inkling of the risk their health is constantly subjected to.

U.S. May Grant Aid For Scrapping Weapons

LD2804101592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0933 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Barsukov]

[Text] Washington April 28 TASS—The Bush Administration has assured the congress that American aid, worth 400 million U.S. dollars, may be given to Russia, Ukraine and Byelarus in order to scrap nuclear weapons and retrain scientists and specialists now engaged in the production of mass destruction weapons there. The policy of these republics, says a letter addressed to the congress by U.S. First Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger on Friday [24 April] evening, meets the terms of such aid, fixed by the congress last December. The contents of this letter were divulged on Monday by the newspaper "WASHINGTON POST".

According to a corresponding congressional decision, the United States will be able to help the former Soviet republics scrap their mass destruction weapons only if the latter assume a commitment to observe the armaments control agreements now in force, allocate substantial means for scrapping the weapons, renounce the now existing military programmes, which go beyond the limits of "legitimate defence requirements", allow the United States to verify the progress of armaments destruction. High-ranking representatives of various government agencies have arrived at the conclusion, after a thorough analysis, that the three republics meet, on the whole, the foregoing preconditions. Eagleburger said the policy and practices of these states were yet at the initial stage of development, and that further U.S. monitoring was required. But they have already assumed satisfactory commitments, which meet the terms of such aid, even if they have not been fulfilled yet, he believes.

There are also nuclear weapons on the territory of Kazakhstan. However, this state, according to U.S. officials, has so far failed to comply with the preconditions for U.S. aid to scrap nuclear weapons. The "WASHINGTON POST" says that U.S. officials believe Kazakhstan may expect to get such aid only if it agrees to sign the nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty and to become a denuclearised state.

Debate on Russian GPALS Role Viewed

PM2804120192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 3

[Article by G. Khromov: "From SDI via GPALS to Common Defense System"]

[Text] The U.S. ABM system—the so-called "strategic defense initiative" (SDI)—conceived in the early eighties under President R. Reagan and at that time blatantly directed against the USSR and at undermining strategic stability, under the conditions of the altered military-political situation in the world can no longer lay claim to a place in the sun. That now seems obvious to everyone. The idea of global protection against limited ballistic missile strikes (GPALS) advanced last year was a life saver for the former program. Under cover of arguments about the need to prevent an accidental nuclear war, it enables the Pentagon to keep afloat several of the former SDI developments.

The Western mass media, especially the U.S. media, are bristling with reports about the continuing struggle for

various versions of an ABM system. Congressmen, military specialists, and scientific experts are either justifying or criticizing them. Sometimes diametrically opposed opinions are being voiced. But as a whole U.S. Congress supports SDI's transformation into the GPALS program, although the congressmen's enthusiasm in this respect has recently diminished somewhat. A part has also been played by the reports distributed by the Congress service of the minimal cost of the new program—$68.5 billion (the Pentagon asserted quite recently that expenditure on it would not exceed $48 billion). And that is in addition to the $20 billion already spent.

The transition from SDI to GPALS leads to a change in priorities in the development and deployment of ABM defense means. The priority task has already been formulated and approved by Congress and provides as the basis for building GPALS the deployment of ground-based interceptor-missiles with the unconditional (for the next few years at any rate) observance of the Soviet-U.S. 1972 ABM Treaty. In accordance with the treaty it is planned over the course of four years to deploy one ABM complex (up to 100 antiballistic missiles) at the Grand Forks base (North Dakota). Work in the field of an ABM space echelon—the basis of the former SDI—is so far to be restricted to research only.

At the same time reports are appearing that some people in the Pentagon do not like this way of posing the question. Under the conditions of the financial restrictions imposed by Congress, proposals are being made whereby the sheep should remain unharmed and the wolves sated. In particular an idea has emerged for deploying at Grand Forks not 100 but just four antiballistic missiles and one radar station and chanelling the funds thus saved into the development of new antiballistic missiles and observation systems which would subsequently serve as the basis for inclusion in the future GPALS. The base in Grand Forks would become a unique testing ground for troop tests of this system.

At the same time the organization for the implementation of SDI does not want totally to abandon space weapons for the notorious "star wars." In the situation which is taking shape they suggested using several types of space technologies developed in the former USSR. And using them virtually free of charge (since Congress is not allocating sufficient funds for these technologies). Especially as our suggestion regarding the joint development of a common defensive system for protection against ballistic missiles.

Recently the authoritative U.S. magazine AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY lifted the curtain over how the United States intends to use this initiative of ours. It is planned to recruit to work in the United States up to 1,000 Russian specialists, paying them a salary of about $460 a month (far less than that paid to U.S. specialists) and to acquire several very important technologies in technical fields where the Americans objectively lag behind us. That includes in particular liquid-propellant missile engine technology (here, as the Americans themselves admit, they have a lag of 10-15 years, if not more), electric propellers, "Topaz-2" space nuclear installations, and others.

And our entire contribution to the joint defense system is assessed by the Americans at $50 million!

Yet relatively recently U.S. aerospace firms were prepared, for instance, outside the programs for "joint" defense systems, to conclude a contract with us for several hundred million dollars for just one of the technologies under examination—a missile engine based on liquid oxygen and kerosene. At the time political obstacles prevented the signing of this contract. Now it is another matter. After all, everything necessary to make up their lag in several fields of technology and to implement their plans to achieve overwhelming superiority in space under the flag of creating the joint GPALS system can be obtained virtually for a few pennies. The Americans, as a report by the research center of the ruling Republican party, the "Heritage Foundation," says, have no intention of handing their leading technologies over to Russia.

And the extent to which this proposed joint system will consider the interests of both countries was made clear by U.S. First Deputy Secretary of State Eagleburger. The press attests that he has his priorities precisely and clearly sorted out: The aim of nondetriment to U.S. national security should come first (and what will happen to the security of the United States' partner in the joint development is unimportant); second—the consequences for producers in the United States should be only positive, that is, in other words, the other partner in the joint work can be fleeced as you choose. The only important thing is that the interests of U.S. businessmen should not suffer.

There is not even talk of anything else.

That is how matters stand with regard to the SDI-GPALS program for "joint" defense today.

Tasks of Arms Reduction Center Described

PM2804133192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 1

["Topical Interview" with Colonel Viktor Leshchenko, chief of the General-Purpose Forces Main Staff Center for Ensuring the Implementation of Arms Reduction Treaties, by Lieutenant Colonel A. Dokuchayev; place and date not given: "Coming Out of Disarmament Orbit?"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] In most European countries preparations to reduce combat equipment are in progress in accordance with the CFE Treaty, signed in November 1990 by the leaders of 22 states including the USSR. In our country this process is being tracked in the General-Purpose Forces by the Center for Ensuring the Implementation of Arms Reduction Treaties, which has been set up in their Main Staff.

Organizational changes are planned in the military department in connection with the formation of the Russian Armed Forces and a Russian ministry. Could it be that verification of the disarmament process will disappear? Our correspondent put this question to the center's chief, Colonel Viktor Leshchenko.

[Leshchenko] We hope that observance of the treaties signed by the USSR will continue to be verified. It is premature to talk about our center's place in the newly created Russian defense structures, since they have not been confirmed. If the problem is looked at rationally, the center—albeit a reformed one—must be preserved. Russia needs a centralized treaty implementation control system, including links in the Defense Ministry, General Staff, branches of Armed Forces, military districts, and divisions. Formations of territorially-based full-time mobile groups, subordinate to the General Staff and operating in the interests of all branches of Armed Forces, will also be needed.

[Dokuchayev] Viktor Borisovich, will your center not be duplicating the activity of the National Center for Reducing Nuclear Danger? Russia does not need duplication; the Army is being reduced, command structures are being reduced....

[Leshchenko] Our center is not a control structure; it was set up to organize the provision of backup for international agreements in the Ground Forces. While the National Center for Reducing Nuclear Danger, which came into being following the 1987 agreement between the USSR and the United States, tackles tasks corresponding to its title. It performs verification functions regarding fulfillment of the Treaty on Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, conducts preparations for work on the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Weapons, and tackles problems associated with the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Ukrainian, Byelarusian, and Kazakh territory to Russia and their storage and destruction.

But conventional weapons...They are currently being widely used on CIS territory in military conflicts in which people are dying. Meeting the requirements of the CFE Treaty is a multifaceted task whose distinctive peculiarities are a large number of monitored sites, a considerable range of categories and types of weapons, intense inspection activity, and an unprecedented military equipment reduction volume.

In short, the centers are tackling different tasks, which determines their organizational and establishment structure.

[Leshchenko] One last question. How do matters stand regarding the declarations by leaders of the former USSR, which were, after all, made to the whole world....

[Leshchenko] They must be fulfilled. The USSR Government declaration of 14 June last year on limiting the amount of Coast Guard and Naval Infantry weapons is valid within the confines of the CFE Treaty's area of application. Based on the conclusions of an analysis by our specialists, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Byelarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine are evidently faced with cutting around 900 combat tanks, around 1,700 armored fighting vehicles, and around 1,000 artillery pieces. The USSR representative's declaration of 14 June 1991 on additional unilateral undertakings to cut at least 6,000 tanks, 1,500 armored fighting vehicles, and 7,000 artillery pieces available beyond the Urals must be fulfilled by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Russia.

The center is elaborating the criteria for the approach toward the Commonwealth states' participation in implementing the undertakings. We are ready to cooperate in this question with colleagues from our nearby foreign parts.

High Radiation Levels Found on Kola Peninsula

LD2804224592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2011 GMT 28 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] It must be said that, from the very start of Yeltsin's tour of the North, the ecological theme has been present in his conversations. The problem of the destruction of the environment is strongly alarming inhabitants of the northern region. Here is a report by our correspondent about these problems.

[Correspondent L. Obukhova] The Maritime Inspectorate has drawn the conclusion that the ships of the Northern Fleet represent an ecological danger.

Today, the Kola Gulf is on the brink of an ecological disaster. Both the presence of the atomic ice-breaker fleet and of naval submarines are having an effect here. It is reassuring that Oleg Yerofeyev, the Fleet's new commander, started his appointment with introducing ecological order. As early as this summer, according to his statement in the press, all nuclear shells of underwater and abovewater submarines [podvodnyye i nadvodnyye submariny] will be dispatched to the depots and each year 10 atomic submarines will be scrapped. Well then, we will see what we will see.

And, meanwhile, having visited the (Portsnikha) former military base on the coast of the Barents Sea, we saw for ourselves what the military are leaving behind: 600 Becquerels—such is the result of checking random samples of soil and water for strontium taken here. By the way, any planned or forced shutdown of a nuclear reactor, both on sumbarines and at the Kola nuclear electric power station, will result in the emission of nuclear discharges into the atmosphere of the North. Invisible death is hovering above the Kola land and radioactive spots from 600 to 900 Becquerels were found in the south on the Kola coast. This is higher than any maximum permissible international norms. And all this

is not arousing the alarm of the local population. [passage omitted] [video shows navy ships in port, buildings; former base on Barents Sea coast]

Fate of Estonian Reactors Remains Unresolved

OW2804222592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1846 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Government regards the Nuclear Submarine Crew Training Center in Paldiskiy, a town in Estonia, as an installation which is vitally important for national security, and it has no intentions to build the other training center anywhere in Russia, reported the "Rahva Haal", an Estonian daily paper, making an allusion to one of President Boris Yeltsin's military counsellors who visited Estonia last week.

The Paldiskiy submarine training center has two training nuclear reactors, both of them being currently shut down. Estonia demands that this installation be closed as soon as possible.

President Yeltsin's counsellor A. Penyagin, maintains, however, that the training center should continue to functlon as a submarine crew training capability and for insuring safety of Russia's 300 nuclear submarines. He also noted that it would be important to find out the reasons for the Estonian leaders' concern, and eliminate those reasons. In the words of A. Penyagin, Russia hopes to conclude an agreement with Estonia which will lease to Russia the territory occupied by the training center.

Future 'Favors' Nuclear Power Despite Chernobyl

PM2904113592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 26 Apr 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast: announcer-read video report]

[Text] [Announcer over video of Chernobyl nuclear station] The first and third power units at Chernobyl are still operating. But in 1993 the nuclear power station is to be closed down and subsequently dismantled. The first 10 years of the dismantling process will cost at least 2.5 billion rubles. There are nine nuclear electric power stations currently operating in Russia, two of them—the Kursk and Smolensk stations—are equipped with reactors of the same type as at Chernobyl. The Rostov power station is also ready to be commissioned—clearly the local authorities have not given permission for it to be opened. For six years now the Chernobyl tragedy has been a source of terror to millions of citizens, the man in the street and the statesman. This truly universal fear aggravates the power engineers' torment—should they opt for the all-powerful but treacherous atom or harness piecemeal the energy of water, petrocarbons, the sun, and the wind. For power engineers, the closure of nuclear electric power stations would mean death, of course. They are working actively and their arguments in favor of nuclear power are hard to contest. In the first place, colossal resources have already been invested in nuclear power stations. The image of billions of rubles buried in the ground, in their opinion, is no less daunting than the latest incident report at a nuclear power station, and this affects everyone, the man in the street or the statesman. In the second place, nuclear power provides a considerable proportion of the Russian economy's power supplies. In northern Russia alone nuclear power provides two-thirds of energy needs. But that is the past and the present. But the future, as the scientists know, especially favors nuclear power. In the period through 2050 a so-called energy gap is going to develop: the extraction of oil, gas, and coal, as we know, is declining, and in the specialists' opinion only the atom will be able to fill that gap. Figuratively speaking, the atom continues to hold man to ransom. In the 30 years before Chernobyl, man conquered the atom, but now he must conquer himself—that means both the man in the street and the statesman. First man must conquer the tendency to panic, second, he must learn to show real determination at long last. But at the moment the only ones to show firmness and determination are the nuclear power workers themselves. The president and the Russian Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation have told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that new generation reactors have already been planned, one of which has been recognized as the most advanced in the world. [video shows Chernobyl wreckage, conference, room, ships, workers in various power industries, nuclear power station].

Danger From Reactors 'Same' as Nuclear Weapons

PM2904134392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Video report by Ye. Sedova; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [video shows view of Chernobyl nuclear power station] [Sedova] The worst catastrophe in the history of nuclear power engineering took place 26 April 1986 on Ukrainian territory. To date it has cost 6,000 lives. But work has continued at the station in the six years since the disaster. The Ukrainian Government envisages that it will be shut down once and for all in 1993. At the moment the two operational power units have been shut down. The leadership and personnel at the station think it hasty to stop work. Before closing them down someone should tackle the job of finding work for the collective of 5,000 people. Even the dismantling [demontatsiya] of the Chernobyl nuclear power station will not lessen the danger. There was recently an accident at a nuclear power station near St. Petersburg. The disabled power unit was of the same type as the one at Chernobyl. And, like the one at Chernobyl, it did not meet all safety requirements in the first place. This time terrible consequences were avoided. But who can say what will happen tomorrow? The country does after all have roughly 40 power units of roughly the same design. The whole civilized world is now worried about the state of our nuclear power stations. They present the same kind of danger today as nuclear weapons. [video shows various scenes at Chernobyl nuclear power station].

Commission for Dniester Region Continues Activity

AU2804133792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1059 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 28/4/1992—The activity of the Joint Commission for Dniester region continued in Chisinau on April 23 and 24. The commission is made up of the representatives of the four countries to implement the resolutions of the meeting of the foreign affairs ministers from the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Romania and Ukraine aimed at peacefully settling the conflict in the districts on the left bank of the Dniester.

The worry and concern were expressed over the continuing violation of the ceasefire agreements which can undermine the sides' efforts to settle the conflict by peaceful means and can lead to the escalation of the military operations.

The commission discussed the issue concerning the creation of the premises for the introduction of the group of military observers to supervise the ceasefire agreement in the area of the area of direct conflict of the subunits of Moldova's Ministry of the Interior and of the paramilitary formations on the left bank of the Dniester. The commission underscored that the sides involved in the conflict should create the conditions guaranteeing the disengagement of subunits as well as the observers' personal security.

Debate was made of the recommendations concerning the soonest possible implementation of the concrete measures to favor the observers' introduction and to set up the normal conditions for their activity in the conflict area, recommendations that are to be transmitted to the mediation commission.

Watanabe Motives for Central Asia Visit Viewed

PM2904104592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Sergey Agafonov report: "Michio Watanabe Goes to CIS"]

[Text] Tokyo—As agreed earlier, Michio Watanabe, Japanese vice premier and foreign minister, is setting out on a lengthy tour of three CIS countries 29 April. A number of circumstances place this tour outside the framework of a routine visit, and it makes sense to speak about this.

The tour itinerary, above all, appears nontraditional. In addition to Moscow, it takes in Alma-Ata and Bishkek—which in itself opens up a new "virgin" direction in Japanese diplomacy. Eminent guests from Tokyo have not paid any attention to the Central Asian capitals before, but times are different now. We should not, however, put everything down to political fashion. Commentators here believe that in this specific instance the Japanese choice has been determined chiefly by the "image" which the two sovereign states have made for themselves in the world.

The calm and pragmatic policy of the Kazakh president undoubtedly impresses the West, and the republic's huge economic potential inspires respect. In addition, Kazakhstan is a de facto member of the nuclear club—which in itself is sufficient to attract close attention to this country. Kyrgyzstan also possesses considerable merits, which enhance its rating in Japanese diplomatic schemes—here there is the outstanding personality of the republic's present leader, its considered approach to the "Islamic factor," and the overall balanced nature of its policy, which is turning Bishkek into one of the most stable points in the former USSR.

In other words, there are weighty reasons for a "direct familiarization," backed up, moreover, by the need for a detailed familiarization with Central Asian prospects following the recent meeting of the presidents of five republics. In addition, Tokyo has a topic, not only for abstract discussion, of good-neighborliness. A few weeks ago it was announced that Japan is studying the question of the possibility of including the five former Soviet republics among the developing countries—which would open up for them the funds of the official aid program for development needs.

The Japanese see patronage of Central Asian republics not so much as an additional burden but as a valuable maneuver within the framework of the "Western club" for two reasons: First, there is the possibility of taking the lead compared with the other members of "the seven" in the Asian expanses of the former Union and, second, this does not require additional monetary appropriations from the treasury, because funds for official aid to developing countries are included in the budget under a separate heading, and so it is only a question of adding five new ones to the traditional recipients of Japanese aid.

All these circumstances together turn the diplomatic success of Watanabe's upcoming trip to Alma-Ata and Bishkek into a foregone conclusion—a warm welcome is ensured, there are no disputed problems at all, and the minister will retain forever the glory of the "pioneer." Moscow is another matter.

On the eve of the Moscow visit the Japanese side took the unprecedented step of making public the innovations in Tokyo's approach to the most acute problem in relations—the territorial problem—which have not yet been discussed in talks with the Russian Foreign Ministry. In particular, Japan's switch from demands for the simultaneous return of Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashir, and Iturup to a "compromise" two-stage formula: first, at the initial stage, recognition of Japanese sovereignty over the disputed islands and the handover of Habomai and Shikotan, then the signing of a peace treaty and the extended return of Kunashir and Iturup under the Japanese flag. Such "artillery preparation" has placed the Japanese themselves in an awkward spot—now

Watanabe simply cannot leave Moscow without an intelligible response to the territorial initiatives.

This will hardly affect Japan's persistence, however, because, judging from individual leaks, Watanabe will also be squeezed by the upcoming meeting of the "G-7" [Group of Seven] in Munich, where the chief topic will be the question of strong financial injections into the economy of impoverished Russia. Everyone knows of Japan's reluctance to participate in this matter because of the territorial problem, but the Japanese will, all the same, be required to participate, and so Tokyo must strengthen its "rear" and be able to cite recent examples of its efforts to overcome the tricky obstacle. The Japanese share, which is of concern to all members of "the seven," will again be linked to Moscow's position, but it is precisely for this linkage that clarity is needed in the May round of Japanese-Russian talks.

An abundance of general phrases "in the spirit of constructiveness" will certainly not give rise to a feeling of satisfaction in the Japanese delegation, and Watanabe will insist on concrete results, albeit "small" ones, using for this not only meetings with his colleague Kozyrev but also, in particular, the talks with Yeltsin promised in the program.

Azeri-Turkish, Armenian-Syrian Relations Noted

PM2804140592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Correspondent Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov report under the general heading: "Ukraine, Armenia, and Central Asian States in Quest for Allies"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA correspondent Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov reports that [Turkish Prime Minister] S. Demirel arrived in Tashkent 27 April. During his stay in Uzbekistan he will meet President I. Karimov and other leaders of this republic with a view to further broadening established ties. In the opinion of observers, Turkey with its secular democracy and free market economy may be a kind of bridge to the Western world for Uzbekistan. REUTER notes that, although Turkey is denying that it has joined the struggle for influence in the region with Iran, it has already indicated via Washington that it is preferable for the former USSR's Asian republics to follow the lead of a NATO member country than to come under the influence of Islamic fundamentalists.

Armenia is also clearly afraid of an increase in the "Islamic factor." The protracted conflict with Azerbaijan and the historical experience of confrontation with Muslim fanatics are forcing this country to seek allies outside the unstable CIS. This in many respects accounts for Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's visit to Syria, whose President Hafiz al-Asad highly appraised during the talks the "long-standing historical ties between the Syrian and Armenian peoples." REUTER recalls that it was in Syria and Lebanon that Armenians found asylum when fleeing from the slaughter of Christians in Turkey during the late 19th century. Now Syrian and Armenian leaders have expressed willingness to develop all-around cooperation.

Nazarbayev Meets Transportation Ministers

OW2504155692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On April 24 Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev received in Alma-Ata heads of transportation ministries of 8 Asian states.

During the meeting Nazarbayev said that, in essence, a new transportation system is being created on the Euro-Asian continent which would allow to considerably shorten the distance for transportation of goods from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast and lower its cost.

Taking part in the meeting were representatives of China, Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. They discussed development of the Transasian and Euroasian railroads.

The next meeting is expected to take place in Tehran (Iran) next summer.

Turkish TV To Broadcast to Central Asia

LD2604094292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Turkish television will start broadcasting via satellite on 27 April to Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan. The broadcasts coincide with the beginning of a visit by Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to Uzbekistan.

Black Sea Fleet Issues

Shaposhnikov Cited on Russia-Ukraine Talks

MK2904090092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 2

[Tatyana Malkina report under "Talks" rubric and general headline: "Odessa No-Show Means Russia Risks 'Missing' the Fleet. Ukraine Ready For Talks"]

[Text] Answering a question put to him by your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent concerning his proposed participation in the Russian-Ukrainian talks in Odessa, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, stated: "I will not be present at the talks, since at the moment the presence of the military at such talks is having a completely inappropriate effect, particularly in Ukraine. Our comrades will participate in these talks at expert level. In this way we hope to somehow resolve this problem."

"I advocate a solution that involves Ukraine receiving a part of the Black Sea Fleet," Marshal Shaposhnikov continued. "According to my figures, it should be up to 20 percent. And the rest should be handed over to the CIS Joint Armed Forces, since each country has the right to make such a claim: Whether it be Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, or any 'nonmaritime' state... It is hard to work out now who put in how much earlier, and what proportion it constituted. You will remember a figure from three years ago: 17 billion—the USSR's military budget. But that was pure fiction. Ukraine was supposed to have paid 18 percent into that budget. I doubt that very much."

Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov assessed the upcoming talks as "very difficult," but he noted that their outcome remains "in our hands."

CIS Naval Commander on Black Sea Fleet

LD2804222892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Interview With Commander of the Commonwealth Navy Admiral Vladimir Chernavin—live or recorded, Chernavin speaks in Russian with superimposed English translation]

[Text] Our correspondent Spartak Alekseyev has asked the Commander of the Commonwealth Navy Admiral Vladimir Chernavin to say as an expert (to) whom the disputed Black Sea Fleet should belong—Ukraine, Russia, the whole Commonwealth of Independent States or should it be divided among coastal republics of the former Soviet Union?

[Chernavin] This is a very painful issue for me because it is clear to me, as an expert, that any attempt to divide the Fleet, especially according to the pattern proposed by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, is not directed at increasing the defense potential or the combat capacity of the Fleet to defend the south-west of the Commonwealth including Ukraine. If such a division happens this will lead, in the final count, to the death of the Black Sea Fleet.

I want to emphasize that it is absolutely clear to me as an expert, that Ukraine is unable to guarantee the combat readiness of the Fleet on the scale it claims. If it gets the ships and formations of the Black Sea Fleet it will be forced to eliminate most of them and thus weaken this militarily important and intensive naval theater.

As you probably know, the Black Sea Fleet represents the Commonwealth in this direction and defends the interests of all CIS countries including Ukraine. Attempts to privatize it in some way or tear it apart will only reduce the combat capability of the Fleet.

That is why for a long time we held talks with the Ukrainian Defense Ministry but agreement was not reached, therefore, we submit the issue to a higher level. Negotiations will now be held at government level, naturally with the participation of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and the leadership of the Commonwealth Navy. This will be another attempt to prove somehow that the issues should be approached from the viewpoint of the benefit of the cause not ambition, and this cause—the defense capability and combat readiness of the Fleet - does not permit the division or the tearing up of the Fleet into pieces.

This doesn't mean, however, that our stand rules out the possibility of the formation of a Ukrainian Navy. On the contrary, we would welcome that and we are even ready to set aside a certain number of ships and formations and offer professional assistance to Ukraine in the formation of its Navy because Ukraine does not have the personnel or experience.

Even though some journalists are writing articles claiming that Ukraine is a great sea power, we all know that Ukraine has never had a navy and we are ready to offer all possible assistance in building its navy, after all we belonged to the same family with Ukraine yesterday and we probably remain a family today, so we cannot argue over some ambitions. Hopefully the government and president of Ukraine will be able to follow logic and subordinate all interests to the interests of the common cause.

Chernavin Dismisses Officers Loyal to Ukraine

LD2804184192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Confrontation has already started on the eve of tomorrow's talks [on the Black Sea Fleet, in Odessa]. Admiral Chernavin, commander in chief of the CIS Navy, has ordered the dismissal of those officers of the Black Sea Fleet who have sworn loyalty to Ukraine.

Colonel-General Morozov, Ukrainian minister of defense, has sent a telegram to the commander in chief of

the CIS Unified Armed Forces regarding Ukrainian officers serving on the Republic's territory.

Russia, Ukraine May Clash Over Air School

PM2904083592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 2

[Correspondent Captain Second Rank V. Pasyakin report: "Pilots Once Again Faced with a Choice. Special Center for Training Shipboard Pilots Could Become Another Bone of Contention Between Ukraine and Russia"]

[Text] Following the Ukrainian radio report that naval airmen in Saki had solemnly sworn an oath of allegiance to Ukraine, I decided to see how true this was and which subunits are concerned.

Previously, as is well known, the Ukrainian oath was taken secretly in the Black Sea Fleet, without observing the necessary ritual, because it was all being done before a political decision on the fate of the fleet has been adopted.

But here it was a question of a solemn oath-taking. Yet no political decision has yet been made on the Fleet. Moreover, the Russian and Ukrainian presidents' decrees on the Black Sea Fleet have been suspended. Is this the result: While the politicians are trying to reach agreement, people in the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense have openly grabbed the "lion's share" of the Fleet?

Some light was shed on the situation by Aviation Major General V. Ruban, first deputy commander of Black Sea Fleet aviation.

"The special center in question is under central command and is not exclusive to the Black Sea Fleet, and so I cannot provide full information about the taking of the Ukrainian oath there... I will speak of something else. There is, to say the least, a dyarchy at the center now. Colonel Seregin, the center's chief, was transferred to the reserve approximately a month ago. Col. Bakulin was appointed to take his place by order of Fleet Admiral Chernavin, commander of the CIS Navy. Seregin has not yet finally handed over all matters to Bakulin. But literally a few days ago a report came from the Ukrainian Defense Ministry that Col. Beznogikh has been appointed to this same post. It is hard to say now who in fact is in command of the center now..."

The situation, you will agree, is unusual. It is a path to confrontation and opposition. In addition, account has to be taken of the fact that the center for training shipboard pilots is unique, the only one of its kind, because it trains pilots for aircraft-carrying cruisers like the Kiev and the Admiral Flota Sovetskogo Soyuza Kuznetsov.

On that day I managed to contact by telephone only Col. V. Beznogikh. I learned from him that an oath of allegiance to Ukraine was taken in four units of the garrison 8 and 10 April. In a solemn atmosphere, with full ceremony.

"We do not have a unit banner," Viktor Ivanovich said, "and so, instead, we brought out the state flag of Ukraine. In the unit commanded by Col. Ye. Kaburov 95 percent of the officers and ensigns put their signature to the Ukrainian oath. In Col. I. Kalyuzhnyy's unit 92 percent did. In the regiment headed by Col. O. Artemyev 47 percent did. In the center's management link three-fourths took the Ukrainian oath."

I wish to draw special attention to one aspect of our conversation. Beznogikh told me that when a first squadron captain had begun pondering whether or not to take the Ukrainian oath, he had advised him to go to the military commissariat and find out who will pay his pension if he does not take the oath of allegiance to Ukraine...

This argument was more effective than any persuasion. But can this really be called a free, voluntary choice? Is there really not oppression and pressure here? Many of the officers and ensigns simply found themselves driven "into a corner." They have apartments here, their wives and children are settled here, and maybe they have a truck garden or a garden plot. Is it easy to abandon all this, to pack your bags, and to leave for you know not where, for somewhere, again, where you do not know when you will obtain housing or other facilities?

Col. G. Bakulin, with whom I soon after spoke over the telephone, did not report precise percentages for those who have sworn a second oath, but merely said that they are similar to those given by Beznogikh. Gennadiy Georgiyevich emphasized the thought that many pilots did not, in point of fact, have a choice.

"Has anyone from the air command of the CIS Navy been to the center?" I inquired of Bakulin.

"Yes, Aviation Maj. Gen. Rogov, chief of air combat training of the CIS Navy, has been here, but there followed from Aviation Lieutenant Gen. Vasilyev, commander of the Ukrainian Air Force, a categorical demand not to interfere in sovereign Ukraine's military organizational development and to obey Col. Gen. Morozov's order. Otherwise the prosecutor's office will deal with me. Then they could send me away from here altogether within 24 hours..."

The path of one-sided decisions, strong-arm pressure, and, still less, ultimatums is far from best. It is certainly not civilized. We have gotten a kind of war of orders. Naval airmen now receive orders—mutually contradictory orders—from Kiev and Moscow. But can military people really share power unless politicians adopt corresponding decisions?

Here I would like once again to return to the question of the unique nature of the training center and the expediency of making use of it. As I have already said, it trains

pilots for deck-based MIG's, Su's, and Yak's, i.e. we are talking of aircraft-carrying cruisers, which Ukraine has never had and whose building it has unilaterally renounced. Today Ukraine is going all out to cut the heavy aircraft-carrying cruiser Ulyanovsk and does not wish to finish building the heavy aircraft-carrying cruiser Varyag. So what does it want with this training center?

The center for training and retraining CIS naval pilots at Nikolayev has also ended up in an equally indeterminate position. Aviation Lt. Gen. Yu. Gudkov, the center's chief, told me that on 5 April this year jurisdiction over the center passed to Ukraine. The taking of the Ukrainian oath was organized there 13-14 April, and more than 90 percent of the airmen took the oath.

So must Russia, which has both heavy aircraft-carrying ships and naval aircraft at its disposal, now set up new centers? And, again, whom do they intend to train in the aforesaid centers in Ukraine? Will not hundreds of pilots and aviation specialists find themselves without a job tomorrow?

Military

Russian Personnel Department Plans Considered

OW2804165592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Plans for reorganizing the Committee for the Personnel of the C.I.S. Armed Forces into a department for Russian servicemen have been received with understanding by the General Command, Chief of the Media Department of the Committee for Personnel, Aleksandr Yakubovskiy, told journalists on Tuesday [28 April]. He said that these plans had been approved by Dmitriy Volkogonov who heads the Committee for the Establishment of the Russian Armed Forces and Defence Ministry set up by President Yeltsin.

Joint Border Guard Command Meets in Moscow

OW2804182492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On 28 April, the Commonwealth State Border Committee hosted the first conference of the CIS Joint Border Guard Command. Participating in the conference were the Border Guard Command's permanent members - plenipotentiary representatives of Armenia, Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Also attending the conference as observers were delegates from Azerbaijan.

The conference addressed the issues of organization, equipment, finance, logistics, and personnel of the Commonwealth border guard troops, discussed the documents which the Joint Command intends to present for consideration to the heads of states in Tashkent.

Proceedings Viewed

LD2804215792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Video report, including recorded remarks by V.K. Gaponenko, commander of the border troops of the Baltic District; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] According to an ITAR-TASS report, an attack was made on guards of patrol ships of the Transcaucasian Border District stationed in Baku. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the conference of the Main Border Troops Command, which has opened in Moscow, the chairman of the committee for the defense of the Azeri borders said that this situation arose because the status of the border troops has not been clarified.

The purpose of the conference is to draft documents on the question of defending the borders of the former Union for the meeting of heads of CIS states to be held in Tashkent on 12 May. But the conference has not passed any decisions or documents. The representatives of the troops from the sovereign states confined themselves to hearing a report by the inter-state committee leaders on changes in the structure of the administration of the border troops. They said they cannot pass any decision on this question without the approval of their presidents. The problem is that many states have decided to transfer the border guards under their own jurisdiction.

[Begin Gaponenko recording] The frank conversation that we had at this meeting made a somewhat painful impression on me. All the independent states, the CIS countries, want to have their own border guards. Perhaps this is necessary. But the other side of the coin is being ignored. While wanting and insisting on having their own border troops, most of the CIS countries do not want to fund them. [end recording]

[Announcer] The financial situation in the troops is critical. The budget has not yet been ratified. Only Russia has earmarked any funds, and this amounts to just 55 percent of what is necessary. In this situation, there can be no serious talk of equipping the border with up-to-date technical facilities of control and defense.

Plight of Air Unit in Ukraine Outlined

PM2704104192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Apr 92 p 1

[Colonel V. Bogdanovskiy report on interview with Colonel Aleksandr Fomin, commander of a long-range aviation regiment, in Stryy, Lvov Oblast; date not given:

"Regiment Commanded From Three States at Once. On Top of This, Commander Threatened With Court Action"]

[Text] The long-range aviation regiment commanded by Colonel Aleksandr Fomin is currently the center of attention of the mass media in Ukraine's western region. Journalists and representatives of the district staff and military prosecutor's office are now rushing to the city of Stryy in Lvov Oblast, where the regiment is stationed.

"It is not service, but sheer nervous strain," Col. Fomin began our conversation. "Instead of the regiment's fate being decided as soon as possible, passions are being inflamed and accusations are being invented..."

Indeed, life is not sweet for the regiment. You cannot envy either the commander or his subordinates. It happens, for instance, that the regiment has not been allocated a single meter of housing for the umpteenth year. Therefore over 160 families are taking shelter wherever they can—some in private apartments, others in the soldiers' club, offices, and even the soldiers' barracks. But new and even more serious difficulties have been added to these.

"The regiment is subordinate in status to the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command," Fomin says, "and must fulfill certain tasks. However, we now find ourselves between a rock and a hard place, as it were. On the one hand, we are subordinate to the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command, and on the other to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry."

Indeed, the regiment in question is subordinate to a division whose headquarters is located in Russia, to an army headquarters located in Byelarus, and simultaneously also to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

"So I am simply in a quandary," Colonel Fomin says in bewilderment, "over whose instructions to carry out and what documents to be guided by in order, for instance, to maintain combat readiness!"

A serious question. Since many military questions have not been properly solved legislatively in the accords between Commonwealth countries, various difficulties are arising which are affecting the organization of combat training exercises and the collective's morale. Situations are also arising which disturb people's equilibrium for a long time.

The military prosecutor's office recently brought two criminal cases against the regimental commander. Just what has happened? Here is what Fomin himself has to say:

"The regimental combat training plan scheduled a training course for young pilots. The divisional commander issued an order concerning this. It instructed me personally to move four aircraft and eight crews from the regiment to Bobruysk. This procedure for holding the course has long been firmly established. And not for nothing. February in the Lvov area is not the best month to organize flights. Besides, flights from Stryy to the Bobruysk range take up a lot of time. So we decided not to break the established tradition this year either. However, I did not think it possible to carry out the divisional commander's order. Mainly because it had not been possible to resolve the question of redeploying the aircraft with the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. Eventually it was decided to hold the training course in Stryy."

"...The flights began. One day the crews went out to fulfill a mission. But after some time the command post received information about an increase in the wind—the cross wind was greater than acceptable. I," Fomin goes on, "immediately reported this to the divisional commander. After analyzing the situation, he decided to land the crews at the alternate airfield in Bobruysk, where they remain to this day. The district military prosecutor's office perceived malicious intent in this and instituted criminal proceedings against me, although the fact that meteorological conditions deteriorated is confirmed by documents.

"In connection with the fact that the regiment has recently received only around 1,000 tonnes of fuel, which is enough for only one or two flight shifts," Fomin went on to say, "we decided that we would organize flights for the crews in the aircraft which are in Bobruysk. We simply did not see any other solution. A pilot who has not flown for two and a half to three months is, as you know, not permitted to continue flying. He has to be retrained."

Ukraine also regarded as unauthorized action the fact that the regimental commander carried out an order and permitted specialists from Engels and Smolensk to cannibalize Tu-16 aircraft that had reached the end of their lifetime. Although not a single part taken from them was sent anywhere and everything has been kept right there in the regiment, a second criminal case was brought against him.

But the story does not end there. The regiment, thanks to the "efforts" of journalists from local press organs, has been classified as unreliable. The press circulated information that the unit was preparing another batch of aircraft for transfer outside Ukraine... "I simply must deny that," Col. Fomin concludes, "and explain that we have neither the desire nor the opportunity to do this. There is no fuel. We will bring those six ill-starred aircraft back from Bobruysk to the regiment as soon as kerosene arrives. Although everyone knows about this, we are nevertheless strongly suspected of something, and people are continually coming to check up. Is it possible to live and work in such conditions?"

The answer, I am sure, is unequivocal.

Commonwealth

Alma-Ata Meeting on Sharing USSR Property

LD2804173992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] When the world community is trying to give us financial aid, the former Union republics are determining who has the legal right to the property of the former USSR.

A wide range of opinions came to light from the very outset of a meeting of experts which opened in Alma-Ata today to discuss this issue. It is attended by leaders of republican committees on state property from Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Ukraine. There is a Kazakhstan-Russian draft of a future agreement, but the representatives of the Ukraine, Byelarus, and Uzbekistan also have their own versions of an agreement.

The principle of how property should be divided was debated. Kazakhstan proposed that this should be done according to the size of population of the republics which one way or another helped to (?accumulate) this property; Russia proposed that it be based on the foreign debt; and Byelarus proposed that it be based on the proportion of gross national product.

They reached preliminary agreement on a so-called aggregated index which to some extent takes into account all these parameters.

Military Documents Approved For CIS Summit

LD2904123992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1209 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow April 29 TASS—Military experts of the Commonwealth approved two draft agreements which are to be forwarded to the CIS summit scheduled for May 15 in Tashkent. They deal with chemical weapons and the law enforcement agencies in the CIS Armed Forces.

But experts from all CIS states excluding Moldova, meeting for the second day in Moscow, were more successful in preparing military documents for the CIS heads of government. On Wednesday [29 April] they reached accord on a big number of draft agreements, which deal with pensions and insurance for the military and their families, with medical assistance, military transportation, draft to the CIS Armed Forces, providing information to the system of protecting military secrets, the provisions for the use of the radiospectrum, etc. A protocol on the CIS peacekeeping group was also signed.

However, experts failed to agree on how republics should pay their shares to the CIS military budget saying the document needs further improvement. The draft agreement on the training of officers for the CIS Armed Forces was completely abandoned as experts decided the issue can be better solved by bilateral agreements.

As experience shows, defence ministers of the Commonwealth will initial the draft documents before forwarding them to the heads of government.

Baltics

Security, Stability Seminar Opens in Riga

LD2704090192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0727 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Riga April 27 TASS—A seminar devoted to problems of stability and security in the Baltic region opens in Riga on Monday [27 April]. The seminar, organised by the Latvian Parliament and the Assembly of North Atlantic States (ANAS), is being attended by parliamentarians from many countries and representatives from NATO, CIS Joint Armed Forces and other military departments as well as independent experts.

According to Simon Lunn, ANAS deputy secretary general, the seminar aims to obtain better information on the situation in the Baltic states and give support to their demand for the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from their territories. "We hope to promote the dialogue between Russia and the Baltic states," he added.

The seminar, opened by Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Parliament, is expected to last three days. It will discuss a new role played by NATO in the system of collective security, control over non-proliferation of weapons and the prospects for regional stability in Russia, Byelarus and Ukraine.

Foreign Troop Withdrawal Discussed

OW2804223392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1846 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The delegations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania attending the International Seminar in Riga have put security in the Baltic countries in direct dependence on a speedy withdrawal of troops of the former Soviet Union from that region. They maintain that the troops should be withdrawn by the end of 1992.

Baltfax has already reported that the International Seminar "Stability and Security in the Baltic Region" opened in Riga this Monday [27 April].

The Lithuanian representative complained about the continuing unsanctioned troops movements in the republic. The military authorities, he averred, obstruct the work of the border guards and forbid inspections of military facilities by the local or republican authorities. The Lithuanian side has not received any official information as regards the composition and armament of the forces stationed on the Lithuanian territory.

The representative of the Estonian delegation Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on Foreign Affairs Mr Indrek Toome informed the Seminar that the Russian troops occupy 80,000 hectares of the Estonian territory, their strength amounting to 25-27 thousand commissioned officers and enlisted men.

The cost of armaments and materiel of the Estonian Armed Forces appropriated by the Red Army in 1940 amounts to $300 million according to the current prices. Tallinn raises a demand for reimbursement.

Indrek Toome stressed that Estonia is not capable of protecting itself by its own resources. Therefore, it is ready to join any international structure which can insure its security.

Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, CinC [commander in chief] North-Western Group of Forces, did not specify any dates for the troop withdrawal. He, however, emphasized that "the Baltic countries are seeking to acquire political capital, ultimately ignoring Russia's interests".

Media

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 29 Apr

LD2904061492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0453 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow April 29 ITAR-TASS—Newspapers highlight President Yeltsin's trip to northern Russia. He will visit the cities of Arkhangelsk, Severodvinsk and Mirny. According to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, "the interests of the head of state are focused not on Arkhangelsk, but on Severodvinsk and Mirny, the cities dominated by the military-industrial complex." The president said another purpose of his trip to the north was to "discuss with people the corrections introduced in the reform course."

Severodvinsk is the city where the country's largest shipyard for the building of nuclear-powered submarines is situated. As a result of political vacillation and futile debate about the conversion, Severodvinsk enterprises found themselves in a desperate situation: There are no orders, no raw materials and no salaries. According to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, "a unique programme is now being developed, the task of which is to give Severodvinsk the status of the Russian centre of the building of nuclear-powered vessels, both submarines and ordinary ships." The president assured shipbuilders that the building of submarines will be continued, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes.

In the opinion of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, the forthcoming visit of President Yeltsin to Mirny, where a space exploration centre is situated, is connected with the need for settling the problem of the Baykonur space launch complex, which happens to be in another country now. Kazakhstan is asking billions of roubles for the rent of the Baykonur land. So, scientists, engineers and politicians began to consider a possibility of using the northern space launch complex near the township of Plesetsk, in the Arkhangelsk region.

The newspaper writes in this connection that "this would involve the expenditures, the scope of which is difficult to imagine for ordinary people."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA comments on the report that Russia and other former Soviet Republics have been admitted to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The fact that about all the Republics were admitted to those financial institutions irrespective of the character of their financial policy made this event a little less solemn. "This confirms our opinion that emphatic statements of the IMF senior executives about their concern over a possible change in the Russian Government's reform course were mostly of a propaganda character," the newspaper points out.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with Dmitriy Vasilyev, deputy head of the state property committee. He sets forth the essence of a new privatisation programme for 1991 [as received], which will be discussed by the Russian parliament. Describing the new programme as a step forward, the newspaper praises this initiative of the government. "The draft programme envisages various forms of privatisation, nearly all of them, ranging from auctions to a free distribution of controlling blocks. The impression is that the government seeks to reserve for itself the right to choose any form, depending on the situation," the newspaper stresses.

Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the CIS allied Armed Forces, supported the idea of turning over 20 per cent of the Black Sea Fleet to Ukraine. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with him, which deals mostly with the Russian-Ukrainian talks on this problem that begin in Odessa today. He believes the rest of the Black Sea Fleet should be turned over to the CIS allied Armed Forces, because each of the former union Republics has the right to claim its share. Marshal Shaposhnikov called into question the assertion that Ukraine's contribution to the Soviet Union's military budget amounted to 18 per cent. According to the newspaper, Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian parliament, was appointed head of the Russian delegation at the Russian- Ukrainian talks. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA fears the Russian delegation with such a leader at the head "might be too aggressive."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article about a new turn of events in South Ossetia, an autonomous region integrated in Georgia. It writes that the withdrawal by Russia of its Interior Ministry troops from the Republic, plagued by an inter-ethnic conflict, is being regarded there as the betrayal of South Ossetia's interests. According to the newspaper, Alan Chochyev, deputy head of the South Ossetian parliament, said the withdrawal was the result of a preliminary conspiracy of the Russian and Georgian authorities. The confederation of highland nations of the Caucasus held its session in Tskhinvali, administrative centre of South Ossetia, which ended on April 27. It adopted a statement which says that "if the Georgian side does not stop the shelling of Tskhinvali, the confederation will take measures to move its troops to the region."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an exclusive interview with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe. He brings up the problem of assistance to Russia in the context of the territorial dispute between the two countries. "Japan is ready to help Russia's reforms, despite the territorial problem," Michio Watanabe said. He pointed out that Japan would like to sign a peace treaty with Russia "on the basis of law and justice." He believes it is possible to settle in the near future the territorial dispute over the Kuril Islands on the basis of the same principles.

International Affairs

Gaydar Continues Visit to Washington

Meets With Bush

LD2804190992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1832 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington, 28 Apr—The meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Yegor Gaydar, the vice prime minister of the Russian Government, has just started in the White House. It is scheduled to last half an hour. As journalists were told by Marlin Fitzwater, the press secretary of the American President: certain economic reforms and Russia's relations with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are being discussed at it. Yesterday, both these leading international financial organizations approved Russia's application for joining them.

Right after his meeting with the President, Yegor Gaydar will leave for talks with Secretary of State James Baker. This morning, he already had a meeting with the leadership of the U.S. Congress.

Comments on Single Rate Ruble Exchange

LD2804213192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2011 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Russia's First Vice Prime Minister Gaydar today discussed in Washington questions of economic cooperation with U.S. leaders. He held talks with President Bush. Gaydar also met with leaders of Congress.

In a conversation with journalists, Gaydar expressed Russia's gratitude for the financial support being given to it in carrying out reforms; however, he noted again that difficult times lie ahead for Russians. In the next two years, he said, an increase in unemployment will be observed.

Judging from reports from Washington, Gaydar stated that from 1 July Russia intends to introduce a single rate of exchange for the ruble, which will be tied to the rate of exchange of the U.S. dollar. According to him, at present, the rate of exchange for the ruble is far too low.

Yavlinskiy Comments on IMF Aid Package

PM2804134592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 1

[Interview with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy recorded by S. Bobrovskiy: "Will the 24 Billion Save Russia?"]

[Text] G. Yavlinskiy:

If the country knows what to do with the $24 billion it has been promised by the IMF, if it is prepared to use it, then much benefit could come of it. But first one has to ascertain what kind of money it is, how much there is in fact, on what terms we are receiving it, what we intend to do with it, and how we repay it.

Hitherto the government has been tight-lipped about its plans for some reason. Does it have any or not—no one will say. But if they are going to take out credit on my behalf, then I, like any normal citizen, would prefer to know what they intend to spend it on and how they intend to make it available. "Window of Opportunity" presented an opportunity only because in it we delineated in detail when and on what the particular sums would be spent and what political or economic profit they would bring.

In itself the IMF's willingness to cooperate is very important, but it cannot be regarded as sufficient grounds for a political decision. The IMF has successful experience of support for reforms, although there are examples of the opposite kind. It all depends on us. If the government is not skillful, smart, quick, and principled enough, if the knowledge of today's realities is flawed, if the authorities pay too much attention to appearances, if that is the case the IMF credits could result in very great, long-term losses. Not only financial.

I can assure you that the ordinary American already has it fixed in his mind: "Russia has been given 24 billion." We, for our part, are already expecting to see store shelves groaning tomorrow beneath the weight of cheap imported goods, as in the petrodollars era. If, God forbid, nothing happens, the conversation will change. They will say that Russia has already been given the money and we will say we have already done a deal with the IMF. So the main thing, in my view, is not the actual money, but what is at stake is mutual trust, the peoples' willingness to support and accept support in the future.

Matyukhin Role in IMF Talks Questioned

MK2804141592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 92 pp 1,3

[Mikhail Leontyev report under "P.S." rubric: "'Educational Utterances' Are No More Than Rhetoric. West Understands Difficulties of Gaydar's Team All Too Well"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Freely Convertible Matyukhin

A representative Russian delegation is now in Washington in order to put the finishing touches to Russia's difficult journey to full membership in the IMF and the World Bank. However, the first hurdle on this path was joining the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD]—Russia became a full member of it 6 April.

The EBRD was the first and only financial organization in whose creation the USSR and then Russia participated from the first days: from the formulation of the principles and the creation of the statutes to the formation of the authorized capital. Incidentally, it was the EBRD that predetermined the "level" Russia would have following the disintegration of the Union. The USSR's whole quota in the authorized capital was $600 million, and when it was divided up, Russia received $400 million, the other states of the former Union together received $150 million, and another 50 million remained in the EBRD's reserve. Thus, the Russian quota, which is 10 times that of Ukraine, for instance, not only enables Russia to have its own manager on the board of directors but also reflects the donor countries' attitude toward its economic and, primarily, currency-financial potential.

The Russian manager was appointed by a government resolution on the eve of the first European Bank session, which was held in Budapest in mid-April. Georgiy Matyukhin, chairman of the Central Bank board, became this manager "ex officio." The reason for the appointment is understandable—because of the status of the organization, the country must be represented by the top official in it: either the head of the national bank or the minister of finances. Vasiliy Vasilyevich Barchuk is an inconvertible person (he is for domestic consumption), and so it automatically went to Matyukhin.

The trouble is, however, that the manager must not only "suggest things," but also speak at closed sessions, and what is even worse, at open sessions. Matyukhin's speech in Budapest, where he read Russia's report, created a powerful impression.

Despite his strange utterances, it is hard to accuse the head of the Central Bank of Russia of the deliberate sabotage of Russian policy: His speech was not cohesive, it seemed impossible to get the gist of what he was saying. Following a confusing excursion into the problems of privatization, Matyukhin concluded his speech with the following tirade: "The West has long supported totalitarianism in our country with its credits. Now again there is a danger of the revival of a totalitarian regime. So the West should be extremely careful in granting credits to Russia." And he sat down...

European delegates who have had the good fortune to hear Matyukhin speaking other than in his official speeches openly expressed their bewilderment at the Russian manager's words. Some of them even doubted the intelligence of those who appointed Matyukhin to this post.

Matyukhin is now in Washington as part of the Russian delegation. And although this time he is not (yet?) heading it, he will nevertheless speak there. And the likelihood remains that he will occupy the post of Russian representative in the IMF or in the World Bank. If the "basic truth" is that Matyukhin headed the Central Bank, then you still feel like asking: Why show this to the whole world? After all, the government is managing not to show its minister of finances to anyone at all. Maybe Matyukhin's high- ranking protectors want Russia's quotas and Russia's positions in the financial world to be brought into line with the level of its individual representatives?

Deputy Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Charge

LD2804161192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1550 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow April 28 ITAR-TASS—The talk between Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Fyodor Shelov-Kovedyayev and U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Moscow James Collins, which was held here today, focused on the state of and prospects for developing Russian-U.S. relations, cooperation in the field of international initiatives and also the United States' relations with other Commonwealth member states. Special emphasis was put on issues pertaining to the ratification of the treaty on strategic offensive armaments.

Collins told about the results of the U.S. delegation's visit to Ukraine and handed over a pertinent memorandum.

Amabassador to U.S. Lukin Interviewed

MK2404113092 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No 17, 22-28 Apr 92 (signed to press 21 Apr 92) p 4

[Interview with Vladimir Lukin, Russian ambassador to the United States, by Olga Gerasimenko under "Wide World" rubric; date, place not given: "Vladimir Lukin, Russian Ambassador to the United States: 'Diplomacy Cannot Be Tackled on the Spur of the Moment'"]

[Text] [Gerasimenko] Vladimir Petrovich! Your activity in the post of chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations Committee has been assessed as an attempt to establish a center of foreign political influence capable of counterbalancing the activity of the Foreign Ministry...

[Lukin] That is flattering to hear! In fact the situation has evolved: Initially there was a "parliamentary" structure of interaction in line with which the government and ministers were appointed by the Supreme Soviet and were answerable to its committees. There must also be taken into account the circumstance that, when we began, the Russian Foreign Ministry—let us be frank about this—was merely a decorative structure. And other states maintained more active relations with Russia's parliament than with its Foreign Ministry. To some extent this determined the leading position of our committee. However, following the legislative formation of the "presidential" structure of mutual relations, the situation began to change: The Foreign Ministry "took over" the leadership. Moreover, gradually Russia began to be recognized, and then there was "Belovezhskaya Forest"... But the committee's influence has been maintained and has generated irritation among not very

intelligent representatives of the foreign policy establishment. This is not normal. Even now we have our differences with the Foreign Ministry in our approach to several issues, and we have often criticized them for the slow pace of reforms. But for my part this has never been of a personal nature.

[Gerasimenko] You have already touched on the reform of the Foreign Ministry. What is your assessment?

[Lukin] On the whole the reforms are moving in the right direction, and I would repeat the very words I used in a private conversation with Yeltsin: This is a difficult matter, there is an entrenched apparatus there, but it is essential to give a chance to those people who are carrying out these reforms. At the same time, there is a feeling that things are being tackled too slowly and not always capably.

[Gerasimenko] In this connection, how would you evaluate the first results of Russia's foreign policy activity?

[Lukin] The results are mixed. The general directions and intentions are correct. But our foreign policy department reacts intolerably slowly to any new development. Our relations with America and the European countries are in a rut which is more or less functioning. And a new problem has emerged—the CIS, and here too there are fewer real results and a frequent incapacity to resolve elementary tasks. It is not only the Foreign Ministry but many other factors that are to blame for this, including presidential structures. Today it is essential to open embassies immediately in the CIS countries and, conversely, end their existence in some "second-ranking" countries. In our foreign political relationships there is an excesive enthusiasm for the European sector. There are certain tendencies toward "self-euphoria": People say—The West loves us democrats. But we must be under no illusions, there exist many different realities. It should not be forgotten that Russia is traditionally viewed with suspicion. Indeed, today our interests coincide to a great extent with the West. But not all of them!

[Gerasimenko] Many people are now accusing Yeltsin of being more attached to internal than "external" matters, unlike Gorbachev...

[Lukin] For all the importance of foreign policy, domestic policy is now decisive: If we don't find a way out of the crisis there will be no Russian foreign policy—and no Russia itself. It is another matter that there are aspects of foreign policy which must be dealt with on a daily basis... The fact that Yeltsin has many foreign policy advisers is in itself not a bad thing: Any president needs to know the alternate opinions and to make the decisions. But on the basis of competent and well-developed judgments and not that of the instinctive "I've had an idea..." type. The foreign minister must be the president's chief foreign policy adviser. I am talking about the principle, not the individual. Undoubtedly, he must have permanent access to the president. Foreign policy cannot be made on the spur of the moment...

[Gerasimenko] How do you see the interaction of the president, the government, parliament, and the Foreign Ministry in the foreign policy sphere?

[Lukin] We have a tendency among us: There are as many foreign policies as there are figures who imagine themselves to be outstanding. In any self-respecting country there can only be one foreign policy. I am opposed to amendments in accordance with which someone other than the president can conclude some treaty or other. The coordination of foreign political activity must be effected by the Foreign Ministry. In order also that we do not send five delegations simultaneously to one and the same country.

[Gerasimenko] A few words about your new work as Russia's first ambassador to the United States...

[Lukin] Only women sum up the results of their work every month.... Nevertheless, if within a month a person has clinched an agreement guaranteeing investments by Americans and if he has found himself at the leading edge of processes which resulted in our being offered $24 billion, then this is not so bad. And precisely from the viewpoint of domestic policy.... In our times of mutual dependence not one country has extricated itself from a crisis without serious cooperation with the international community. The task consists not in shouting "We don't need this!" but in handling it capably and effectively.

[Gerasimenko] You are flying out to Washington in two days. What are you feeling?

[Lukin] I take with me the feeling that "the locomotive is moving"—the wheels skid, sometimes it moves backward, but it is moving.

Japanese Foreign Minister on G-7 Aid

LD2704163392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1034 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasilly Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo April 27 TASS—"Tokyo does not intend to make new spendings in connection with the agreement reached by G7 nations to grant 24 billion U.S. dollars worth of aid to Russia," Secretary-General of the Japanese Cabinet of Ministers Koicho Kato told a press conference here today.

He noted that the aid, on which the G7 finance ministers and Central Bank governors agreed at a meeting that ended in Washington today, will be forwarded through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other multilateral organisations. "Hence," Kato stressed, "its allocation does not contradict the Tokyo-proclaimed principle of 'indivisibility of politics and economy' vis-a-vis Russia," which links the granting of direct full-scale subsidies to the latter with a settlement of the South Kurile issue in Japan's favour.

Kato implied that the G-7 general statement, saying that 18 billion dollars from the total 24-billion package will

be granted on a bilateral basis, does not mean that Tokyo would adopt any new programmes in this direction.

At the same time, Japan has announced its readiness to take part in the 6 billion U.S. dollars stabilisation fund for the ruble, which is now being created, by paying 12.5 per cent of this sum, "because this programme is being undertaken on the initiative of the IMF, is multilateral and indirect, and does not undermine Tokyo's stand in the negotiations with Russia," Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe stated.

Japan's Watanabe Interviewed on Relations

PM2904101392 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 3

[Interview with Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Michio Watanabe by N. Tsvetkov; date and place not given: "Watanabe Demands That the Mistakes of Communism Be Recognized, and Does Not Abandon Hope of a Meeting With the Russian President"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Tokyo—Michio Watanabe is one of the most remarkable figures in the Japanese political world. He came a comfortable second in the elections to the chairmanship of the ruling party last fall, as a result of which he received the high posts of deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The leader of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrives in Moscow for the second time this year. The first time—this winter—was something of a case of "first time unlucky," since urgent affairs called President Yeltsin away to the Black Sea region and he did not manage to meet Watanabe. This time the minister firmly expects to meet the president, indeed, not just one president, but three—Akayev, Yeltsin, and Nazarbayev.

Not long before his departure Mr. Watanabe kindly agreed to receive KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's correspondent for a personal conversation. Of course, we did not deem it possible to "clean up" his statements, although probably some readers will not find all the views of the number one in Japanese diplomacy acceptable.

[Tsvetkov] Mr. Minister, how do you see the subsequent development of Japan's relations with Russia and the other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States?

[Watanabe] You said—independent states. At the moment it is not clear whether they all belong to the CIS, whether the CIS will really become a Commonwealth. Russia and the other members of the former Union have still to answer this question.

[Tsvetkov] The central event in Russian-Japanese relations will obviously be the visit of President Yeltsin in September. What results do you expect from this visit?

[Watanabe] A large distance, figuratively speaking existed over a long period of time between Japan and Russia. Russian leaders did not visit Japan. The first to do so was Gorbachev-san.

What would we like most of all? For Russia's policy to be conducted in accordance with the slogans it has affirmed. We want to conclude a peace treaty with Russia on the basis of legality and justice. We want to remove the obstacles preventing the realization of these principles. We want to genuinely open a new era in Russian-Japanese relations. For this, efforts are needed on both sides. An exhaustive exchange of information is needed, so there should be no misunderstanding of one another's intentions. Yes, we do have a principle of not separating politics and economics. But we stand on the position of humanism. Over the last two years we have adopted several decisions granting urgent humanitarian aid to your country; in particular we are providing, free of charge, aid—in food and medicines—worth $50 million. We would like to host a third—after Washington and Lisbon—international conference on aiding the CIS.

[Tsvetkov] Is a settlement of the territorial question possible in the foreseeable future?

[Watanabe] If the sides hold a frank dialogue, guided by principles of legality and justice—why should it not be possible? We know that there are people living on the islands. And we do not intend to behave with them as Stalin once treated the Japanese inhabitants. We do not intend to evict them by force.

[Tsvetkov] Of course, a peace treaty between Japan and Russia is needed. But are peace treaties needed between Japan and the other states of the former USSR?

[Watanabe] First of all we have to conclude a peace treaty with Russia. As for the other independent states—I think peace treaties with them are not necessary. Because Russia accounts for a very huge part of the former USSR's territory. And also because it is with Russia that we must solve the territorial question.

[Tsvetkov] Thank you. The time of the interview seems to have run out...

[Watanabe] No, wait, I want to say a few more things. I want to stress that I highly esteem the reforms being carried out in the CIS. It is a bloodless revolution. In my opinion, they are remarkable reforms. They have significance not only for Russia, but for the whole world. This is why Japan, despite the presence of the territorial question, is ready to aid your reforms—to participate during the stabilization of the ruble, to assist entry into the IMF, and so forth. I understand full well that it is difficult to change the system which existed for more than 70 years all at once. You have to overcome your present difficulties and hold on for the next three-four years. And we will offer support. I do not personally love communism, but I do love the Russian people. Among the Russians whom I have had occasion to meet are many sincere, good-natured people. I think I have been

singing the melody of Katyusha since childhood, although I do not know the Russian words. I have enjoyed Russian literature since I was a young man. One of my favorite novels is Dostoyevskiy's "Crime and Punishment."

But what I absolutely will not accept is Stalinism. He is responsible for the unilateral contravention of the neutrality pact in 1945, and for driving hundreds and thousands of Japanese into prison camps, where many of them—60,000—died. What has been, has been. The past cannot be recalled. But we would like you to openly recognize the mistakes of the communist period.

Official Cited on Rocket Sales to India, MTCR

OW2704130192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1245 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By reporters M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev, and others from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to information available to DP [Diplomatic Panorama], Russia and India are engaged in consultations on the issue of exporting Russian rocket technology to India. As a Foreign Ministry expert interviewed by DP's correspondent said, these consultations are designed to alleviate the anxiety of participants in the regime of control over rocket technology [Missile Technology Control Regime—MTCR] Russia declared its willingness to join, on the one hand, and, on the other, ensure a further development of cooperation between Russia and India.

Russia is not inclined to violate the regime's requirements, but it wishes to avoid actions fraught with jeopardizing its relations with India.

The Foreign Ministry expert referred to President Boris Yeltsin's statement at the U.N. on January 29, when he proclaimed Russia's intention to join the regime of control over rocket technology which, as a matter of fact, is not universal yet.

It's common knowledge that the Russian Committee on Space Research and the Indian Space Research Organization signed an agreement under which Russia undertook to supply India with space machinery, such as engines for the final stages of booster rockets.

According to the diplomat, cooperation between Russia and India in this area has always pursued purely peaceful goals. Booster rocket equipment supplied to India is designed exclusively for the peaceful use of outer space.

Nevertheless some of Russia's partners, in particular the U.S., believe that the agreement between Russia's Space Research Committee and India's Space Research Organization conflicts with the regime of control over rocket technology.

"Russia doesn't think so, even though it concedes that there are serious nuances in this area which ought to be discussed", the Foreign Ministry expert pointed out. At present, he said, Russia is in contact with the Americans who claim the role of the regime's monitors, and with the Indians who are interested in supplies of Russian booster rocket technology.

In the meantime the Russian leadership decided to suspend the deliveries of booster rocket machinery to India and conduct consultations with Delhi. "This process is going on, and it should be neither simplified nor dramatized", the diplomat said.

Burbulis To Discuss Deliveries

OW2804132092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1252 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By reporters M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev, and others from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As DP [Diplomatic Panorama] learned from well-informed sources in Russia's Foreign Ministry, Secretary of State Gennadiy Burbulis will visit India on May 3-5.

According to a prominent Foreign Ministry official, the visit to Delhi by G. Burbulis does not rule out a visit by President Boris Yeltsin. "The Russian leader's trip is still on the agenda, even though its timing is to be coordinated yet", the diplomat said. According to him, B. Yeltsin might go to India at the end of this year, though the exact date will depend on the President's work schedule.

The agenda of G. Burbulis' talks in Delhi is "open". It might include negotiations on the possibility of further deliveries of Russian space equipment to India.

It's common knowledge that Russia declared its intention to join in the near future the regime of control over rocket technology. Hence it decided to suspend such deliveries and hold corresponding consultations with Delhi, even though bilateral cooperation in this area is purely peaceful.

This problem began to be discussed recently, when Moscow was visited by U.P. Rao, a leading member of India's space research department. His trip was planned long ago and was not prompted by an emergency, though some experts believe that the Russian authorities' decision to suspend the exports of space equipment to India accelerated U.P. Rao's arrival.

U.P. Rao met with the leaders of Russia's space research committee and discussed the emergence of problems with them. According to information available to DP, discussions were held in a calm atmosphere. Even though a final solution was not reached, the two sides confirmed their willingness to search for a compromise. "Neither we nor the Indians are inclined to dramatize the situation", said the Foreign Ministry official who preferred to remain anonymous.

Spokesman on CIS Relations, Afghanistan

LD2804231592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1305 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Report by diplomatic ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Krivoshey and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr—By order of the Russian Federation president, the Foreign Ministry will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring of unity in Russian policy relating to CIS member states.

This was stated at a briefing today by Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, the director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

He also said that according to the aforementioned decree, Russia's ambassadors in the Commonwealth countries and representatives of the Russian Federation appointed by the president will be instructed to head the talks on all questions concerning relations between Russia and CIS states. S. Yastrzhembskiy noted that what is meant is that the Russian Foreign Ministry, jointly with other relevant Supreme Soviet departments and committees, will set up a permanent working group for development of Russia's united position at the talks with CIS member-states.

He also said that on 4 May, the Russian Foreign Ministry plans to hold the first conference with representatives of the members of the Russian Federation with a view to involving them in international economic cooperation and the division of labor.

The steps that have been taken by some autonomies to establish direct contacts with foreign states and which have not been coordinated with the Russian Government, he noted, can create complex problems, including legal ones, both for the autonomies themselves and for the countries in relations to which the attempts have been made, since they frequently contradict the Russian Federation's Constitution in force and international law.

Russia, firmly following its fundamental policy in Afghan affairs, favors a peaceful transition of power in Afghanistan and the creation there of transitional structures that will take account of current political realities and that will be acceptable to the actual Afghan people, added Sergey Yastrzhembskiy. "The situation around the Russian Embassy in Kabul is calm. Our people are healthy and they are continuing to work," he stressed. Proceeding from the belief in the right of peoples to self-determination as a main principle of international law, the Russian Federation Government has recognized the state independence of the Republics of Bosnia and Hercegovina, added the Foreign Ministry spokesman. Moscow hopes, he stressed, that the united approach to the question of recognition by all the CSCE states wishing to stabilize the situation in that republic will promote an end to the bloodshed and attainment of a solution that takes into account the lawful interests of all ethnic communities of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

We have noticed the speech in Toronto by the Canadian foreign minister in which he mapped out in a condensed form the essence of the Canadian position on relations with Russia and Eastern Europe as a whole, added the head of the Information and Press Department of the Foreign Ministry. "We register with pleasure the readiness, which was confirmed in that speech, of Ottawa to render active assistance in implementing the current social and economic reforms," the Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed. "We place a high value on the position that Ottawa has responsibly taken in this difficult period for Russia."

Recognition of Bosnia-Hercegovina Reported

LD2804160492 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1233 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow, 28 April (TANJUG)—Russia has officially recognized Bosnia-Hercegovina's independence, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated this morning.

Moscow, an official statement says, adopted a decision on the recognition of Bosnia-Hercegovina's independence proceeding from the right of a nation to self-determination as one of the basic principles of international law.

The official statement expresses sincere hope that the joint approach of all leading CSCE countries that are supporting the stabilization of the situation in that republic will contribute to the cessation of bloodshed and the finding of a solution that will take account of the interests of all national communities in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Recognition of Macedonia Considered for May

OW2904142892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Ministry is considering the possibility of recognizing another formerly Yugoslav republic, Macedonia, one of its experts told IF [INTERFAX] correspondent. According to him, this issue might be resolved as early as next month.

Recently Russia recognized the independence of Bosnia and Hercegovina. Earlier (at the beginning of this year) Moscow recognized the independence of Croatia and Slovenia. At the moment it's resolving problems connected with establishing diplomatic relations with Zagreb and Ljubljana. According to the diplomat, these problems are "purely technical".

Russia's Foreign Ministry has closely followed the development of events in and around Serbia. It's common knowledge that the U.S. lays responsibility for the crisis in Yugoslavia largely on Serbia and doesn't rule out the possibility of severing diplomatic relations with Belgrade. According to the Russian expert, the tough stand

taken by Washington is unlikely to gain worldwide support. "It's necessary to search for a compromise without resorting to extreme measures", he pointed out.

According to the diplomat, Russia has a positive attitude to the decision of Serbia and Montenegro to form a federation of two republics. As for the new federation's succession to the old one, this problem should be resolved in the framework of a peace conference on Yugoslavia, the diplomat said.

Contingent for Yugoslavia Profiled

PM2704125592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Apr 92 p 1

[Special correspondent Colonel A. Oliynik report: "Russian Troops Land in Yugoslavia"]

[Excerpts] The large-scale UN operation to maintain peace in Yugoslavia has entered its concluding phase. Since the start of April a 14,000-strong UN military corps has been converging on the Balkans by air, sea, rail, and road. Together with Frenchmen, Danes, Kenyans, Poles, and Czechoslovaks it also includes, as is known, the first Russian infantry battalion, whose equipment and supplies are presently on the approach to the Yugoslav border. Our battalion's main complement departed by air 16 April for Belgrade airport. [passage omitted]

Who are they exactly, the Russian "blue helmets?" Russians are their backbone, their mainstay. Although there are also Ukrainians, Byelorusians, Tatars, and representatives of other nationalities living in Russia. Private Aleksey Promzelev, for example, is a native of Ivanov, Sergeant Andrey Bobb is from near Ufa, Private Pavel Zhukovskiy is from Vyborg...

All the soldiers and officers are Airborne Troops volunteers on whose basis the UN battalion was formed. There were more than enough applicants; around 2,000 candidates vied for 900 places. But the selection was rigorous. Apart from having an irreproachable reputation, they had to be at least 175 cm tall, able to handle weapons and military equipment skillfully, and highly seasoned in terms of fighting efficiency and morale...

Most of the officers are people who have gone through the Afghanistan crucible, spent a long time in the zone of interethnic conflicts in the former Union republics, got to know for themselves all the brutalities and hardships of civil war, and seen what merciless and senseless consequences it leads to.

"Both on Afghan soil and in Azerbaijan, on seeing killed people and ruined homes, I often asked myself: Why?", Major Viktor Kirsanov, deputy battalion chief of staff, admitted to me. "Why do people destroy homes, why do they threaten each other with violence?.."

The UN battalion is commanded by 40-year-old Colonel Viktor Loginov—until recently he headed an airborne assault brigade stationed in Ukraine. Apart from everything else, he has a command of English and French. Immediately after the Russian leadership decided to form a battalion of Russian "blue helmets," Loginov went to Moscow for an interview with Colonel General Ye. Podkolzin, commander of Airborne Troops, and from there flew to New York, to the UN Security Council. Here he met for the first time Indian Colonel General Satish Nambiar, commanding general of UN forces in Yugoslavia, who gave the Russian battalion a specific task. Two days later Loginov was already in Yugoslavia. He met the advance group of his own officers and with them he carried out a preliminary reconnaissance of the area on the northern border of Serbian Krajina where the battalion's positions will be located.

"The Yugoslav people are pinning many hopes on the UN peacemaking mission," Col. Loginov says. "That is why there is such a great responsibility on each person taking part in it, both officers and soldiers. Especially as our positions are located in the 'hot' sector of the Serbian-Croatian border, in the so-called eastern sector. Incidentally, Airborne Troops Colonel Aleksandr Khromchenko has been given the job of commanding UN forces in this zone. This area has a front of over 100 km and a depth of around 30 km. The situation within it is complex, the cease-fire agreement is being broken quite often. However, both Serbs and Croats are waiting for the 'blue helmets.' We must be a buffer between the conflicting sides and try to localize exchanges of fire, should they start, by any means..." [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Situation in Kabul

LD2804185692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The situation in Kabul remains complicated, remarked Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Department of Information and Press of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a briefing in Moscow for Soviet and foreign journalists. In particular he said:

[Begin Yastrzhembskiy recording] It is reported that an agreement has been reached between the Mas'ud and Hekmatyar forces on a cease-fire, but that this cease-fire is still being violated. The arrival in Kabul of members of the provisional council has also been reported.

In line with its fundamental policies in Afghan affairs, Russia supports a peaceful transformation of power in Afghanistan which would create transitional structures that take into account the political realities in this country and will be acceptable to the Afghan people themselves.

The situation around the Russian embassy in Kabul is calm. Our people are well and are continuing to work normally.

I can say that we are not aware that the former president of Afghanistan has left the Afghan capital. [end recording]

No Evacuation of Kabul Embassy Staff for Moment

PM2804160392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[RIA correspondent Andrey Pravov and IZVESTIYA correspondent Boris Vinogradov report: "Truce, But Not Yet Peace in Kabul"]

[Excerpts] The cease-fire attained on Monday evening in Kabul remains a flexible compromise on the basis of which talks between the warring mujahedin groupings can begin. Battles are still being fought on the outskirts of the city, but it appears that calm has been restored in the center, inspiring the inhabitants with hope for an end to the war. [passage omitted]

The Russian Embassy is at the moment in the zone controlled by the "Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan." Everything is calm. Our compatriots are well. At Easter the embassy dining room even treated everyone to Easter cakes. Shots can be heard here and there at night, but near the mission it is quiet. Under the windows of my apartment, which is situated immediately alongside the embassy's concrete outer wall, wander armed young men in national dress. One lad sits on the ground, resting his rifle against the sentry box where only Saturday morning there stood a young soldier in Ministry of Internal Affairs uniform.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is maintaining constant contact with the embassy. The last telephone conversation took place Tuesday morning. For the moment the question of the evacuation of personnel does not arise."

"Hi! How are things?" Davlyatbek Sadulayev from our cultural center in Kabul asks the young lad from the balcony of my apartment in Uzbek.

"Thank you," the fellow replies, also in Uzbek, "All is well, thank God...."

Official Comments on Middle East Talks

LD2904141992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1327 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow April 29 ITAR-TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry welcomes the readiness of the participants of the fifth round of the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington for progress in the quest of mutually acceptable formula of the Middle East settlement, Oleg Derkovskiy, deputy chief of the Middle East Directorate of the Russian Foreign Ministry, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

He said the attitudes of Russia and the United States to matters of the settlement of the conflict coincide. But the co-chairmen and other participants in the negotiations realise that a rapid breakthrough should not be expected. It is a complicated and prolonged process and it is important that it has been started and goes on, even if not much has yet been achieved. "It is a positive thing that a real dialogue has started after 40 years of the military, political and ideological confrontation. The dialogue can lead to mutually acceptable solutions," Derkovskiy said.

Derkovskiy welcomed the Syrian Government's intention to lift discriminatory measures regarding the Jewish community in Syria. He said this is a step towards confidence-building which will undoubtedly improve the atmosphere at the talks.

Derkovskiy said that the co-chairmen of the peace conference sent invitations for meetings of working groups in the framework of multilateral negotiations, to be held in May. A meeting of the working group on the environment will be held in Tokyo, on refugees in Ottawa, on the economic development in Brussels, on water resources in Vienna, on arms control and regional security in the United States. A meeting of the coordinating group is expected to be held in Lisbon late in May, upon the conclusion of meetings of the working groups. The coordinating group will sum up the results of the meetings of all the working groups and will adopt an attitude regarding the next round of multilateral talks.

Evacuation of Personnel From Libya To Continue

OW2804111392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1029 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia intends to continue the evacuation of its personnel from Libya in line with UN Security Council sanctions. Three charter flights from Tripoli to Moscow are scheduled for May 4, 5 and 6 to bring home more groups of military experts from Russia and other CIS countries.

The flights will be made if permission is given by the UN committee for sanctions. Under Resolution No. 748, air communications with Libya were stopped after April 15. The sanctions also ban military cooperation with Libya and require the reduction of its diplomatic missions aboard.

Those who will arrive in Moscow from Tripoli next week might include 6-7 Russian diplomats. In keeping with the sanctions the Russian Foreign Ministry required the reduction of the Libyan mission in Moscow by 6-7 persons, so the Libyan side made similar demands.

The first group of some 3,000 military experts and their families from CIS countries returned to Moscow on April 24. Under the UN plan the evacuation should end by May 15.

Libyan Sanctions Causing Economic Losses

MK2804083592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 3

[Mikhail Bredis article under "Our Commentary" rubric: "Not a Good Bargain"]

[Text] A year or so after the famous "Desert Storm" the angry gaze of the world community is turned toward another desert—the Libyan desert. Economic sanctions have been imposed on the regime of Colonel M. al-Qadhdhafi in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 748 with a view to forcing him to hand over two Libyans suspected of involvement in blowing up a passenger plane.

Twice in succession Russia, as the USSR's successor, has acted together with the United States and the West in implementing sanctions against the violators of international order, something which would have been simply impossible earlier, in the era of Soviet ideological messianism. Aside from halting air traffic with Libya and curtailing and lowering the level of diplomatic representation, the Russian sanctions against Tripoli include the recall of our military and military-technical specialists who have been servicing Soviet equipment there. It is no secret that for ideological considerations the leader of the Libyan revolution was among the USSR's great friends, and therefore our country has maintained certain economic ties with Libya.

It is believed in the Russian Foreign Ministry that in the given instance Russia has been forced to waive short-term economic advantages by acting together with the world community against international terrorism. However, Russia has already lost out as a result of the sanctions against Iraq. A substantial Russian presence has also been maintained in Libya. According to specialists' calculations, Russia's losses merely from the halting of deliveries of military hardware spare parts to Tripoli will amount to $2 billion.

In addition, such an unfriendly action on Russia's part as participation in the UN sanctions will surely complicate the receipt of Libya's debt to us. But what if it turns out that the blowing up of the aircraft was not carried out by Libyans? Especially insofar as Libya is seeking compromise options by proposing, in particular, to have the suspects stand trial in neutral Malta. The sanctions will be lifted, of course, but Russia's position in Libya will already have been lost. Cooperation with an odious regime does not, of course, place our country in a good light. But there are other states (Israel, for one) which have repeatedly violated the principles of international law and have never been subjected to punitive UN sanctions. Is this not because the United States has its own interests there? Whereas in Libya the American friends have nothing to lose. While in no way doubting the justice of the UN Security Council decisions, I will remark that on another occasion it would be better for us to punish a country in which there is no Russian presence, so that we get a good bargain.

Foreign Minister Continues Visit to Gulf States

Talks With Bahrain Foreign Minister

LD2704212592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1939 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Lebedev and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Bahrain and Russia have opened a new page in bilateral relations, Bahrain Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah told reporters today, commenting on talks with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev.

The talks give hope for progress in relations between the two countries in all spheres, especially in economic cooperation and trade, he said.

Direct air travel will be open between Manama and Moscow in June.

Kozyrev visited Bahrain as part of his Persian Gulf tour.

Arrives in UAE

LD2704152192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Lebedev and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Abu Dhabi April 27 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived on a brief working visit to the capital of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on Monday and welcomed "solid friendly relations" between the two countries at a meeting with Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the foreign minister of the UAE.

"We highly assess the active and purpose-oriented policy of President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan in the region which is aimed at creating a single emirate state and transforming it into a major economic and financial centre", Kozyrev said upon arrival.

Russia also notes the well-balanced and consistent policy of the head of state in settling the Middle East crisis and promoting peace and stability in the Persian Gulf area, the Russian minister said.

The UAE welcomes the Russian policy in the Arab world and the important role it played as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council during the Gulf crisis, the foreign minister of the UAE told TASS. The United Arab Emirates is ready to develop cooperation with Russia in political, economic, military and other fields, he added.

During his first tour of the Gulf countries Kozyrev has already visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain.

Received by UAE President

LD2804225792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1716 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Lebedev and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Abu-Dhabi, 27 Apr (TASS)—Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, President of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received here today Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is paying a short working visit to the UAE. During the friendly conversation which took place between them, the Russian minister gave the head of the UAE a personal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin inviting Shaykh Zayid to pay an official visit to Moscow at his convenience. In his turn, the UAE president invited the Russian president to visit his country.

Andrey Kozyrev confirmed that as the USSR's successor, Russia takes upon itself all the rights and obligations following from this, and that includes its agreements and understandings with the Emirates. He expressed gratitude to the UAE president and the country's leadership for the support it is giving to Russia and its readiness to cooperate with her. He expressed his hope for the further development of bilateral links.

The Russian minister emphasized Moscow's interest in the creation of reliable security structures in the Persian Gulf region, which could reduce the possibility of new aggressive actions in the region.

Talks With UAE Foreign Minister

LD2804134492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Lebedev and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Relations between Russia and the Emirates and the development of long-term bilateral cooperation based on mutual advantage were at the center of talks held here today between Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation, and Shaykh Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al- Ni'imi, state minister for foreign affairs of the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

The Russian minister arrived in the UAE on Monday on a brief working wisit within the framework of the program of Russian diplomacy aimed at setting up "a belt of good-neighborliness and cooperation" around Russia. This is his first tour of the six Arab countries of the Persian Gulf. He has already visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain. A. Kozyrev will next visit Oman, where he will end his tour.

Arrives in Oman

LD2904050592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1925 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Muscat, 28 Apr—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in the Sultanate of Oman on 28 April on the final leg of his working tour of six Persian Gulf countries.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, told ITAR-TASS at Muscat airport that the Omani people welcome the Russian minister's first visit here. Friendly relations of cooperation exist between the two states, reflected particularly in the setting up of a joint commission. Oman and Russia hold identical or close positions on major international issues, the minister of state continued. The time has come to exchange opinions on a wide range of problems, and I am convinced that the forthcoming talks will be positive.

Kozyrev said that his arrival in Oman ends his working visits to the Persian Gulf countries. He noted that the Russian side with great interest enters into talks with the leaders of the Sultanate of Oman, which occupies a key strategic position in the Gulf.

We have come with the firm intention of establishing and developing friendly relations with Oman "for the future," the Russian minister continued. We are united by a common will to help strengthen security and peace in this region. We highly assess Oman's contribution to the Near East settlement process and to establishing stability in the Persian Gulf region.

On 29 April, Kozyrev will open talks with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin- 'Abdallah and will meet Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs. A meeting is also planned with Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

Talks With Omani Counterpart

LD2904103892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0913 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Muscat, 29 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Russian-Omani talks began in Muscat today between the delegations led by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Yusuf bin-'Alawi-bin 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. The visit to Oman ends the Russian minister's working trip around the Persian Gulf countries.

The minister previously visted Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates.

Further on Visit

WA2904172092

For reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister Kozyrev to the Persian Gulf, including his talks with senior Kuwaiti and Saudi officials, see the Arabian Peninsula section of the 27 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Further on Closure of Embassies in Africa

OW2704134092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1214 GMT 27 Apr 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature based on reports by diplomatic correspondents M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev, and others; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on closing the Russian Federation's embassies in a number of countries. In compliance with this Russia's Foreign Ministry will close its diplomatic missions in several African countries, such as Bourkina Fasso, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principi, Somalia, Sierra Leone and Togo.

B. Yeltsin's decree suggests that Russia's Foreign Ministry should replace its embassies in these countries by the institution of honorary consuls. The Finance Ministry is instructed to determine together with the Foreign Ministry the sources of covering expenses connected with the closure of Russian embassies in foreign currency and in rubles. Cuts in the number of embassies will be effected in the framework of a reform in Russia's diplomatic service under which 24 of the 225 institutions maintained by the Russian Foreign Ministry abroad will be closed within a year. The diplomatic personnel of Russia's missions abroad will be reduced by 30%, and the administrative and technical personnel by 15%

Along with this the process of opening Russia's new embassies is under way. Embassies will be opened in the 14 countries located in the territory of the former USSR. Besides, the possibility of establishing 20 Foreign Ministry missions in the big cities and regions of Russia is under consideration.

Federation Affairs

Shakhray on New Head for Black Sea Delegation

LD2804173492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Sergey Shakhray has declared that, as a state councillor of the Russian Federation, he can no longer head Russia's state delegation at the talks with Ukraine on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet, which are scheduled for 29-30 April in Odessa.

Shakhray explained in an interview with INTERFAX that, in the relevant decree by President Boris Yeltsin on the formation of the delegation for the talks with Ukraine, he names the deputy premier as the delegation leader. Shakhray's resignation several days ago from the post of deputy head of the government precludes him from leading the delegation at the Odessa talks.

Sergey Shakhray believes that the problem that has arisen can be resolved by a presidential decree or order appointing a different leader for the delegation. He named Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Yuriy Yarov, deputy head of the Russian parliament, as possible candidates.

Yarov Appointed

OW2804203892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Close to the government sources reported to "IF" [INTERFAX] that the Deputy Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Yuriy Yarov will be the head of the state delegation at the negotiations with Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet fate opening Wednesday [29 April] in Odessa.

Earlier President Boris Yeltsin appointed the State Adviser on legal policy Sergey Shakhray the head of the delegation by his decree. But after his resignation from the post of the Vice Premier he abandoned the post of the head of the delegation.

Automatically this post was occupied by Yuriy Yarov who according to the President's decree was the deputy of the Russian delegation leader. "IF" says that the President did not pass any official resolution on rearrangements in the delegation. The departure of the delegation is expected on the morning of April 29.

The Ukrainian delegation headed by the first Deputy chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet Vasili Durdinets arrived in Odessa Tuesday in the evening.

Speaking on the negotiations initiated by the Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk in Odessa on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet, the deputy of the Ukrainian plenipotentiary representative to Russia Victor Lisitskiy told "IF" that "the negotiations may help to coordinate approaches to dividing the Fleet and its property".

Petrov Agrees To Stay On as Chief of Staff

MK2804143092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 2

[Tatyana Malkina report under "Power" rubric: "Petrov Cannot Say No to Yeltsin, and So Remains To Lead President's Administration"]

[Text] As we know, Boris Yeltsin did not simply fail to accept Yuriy Petrov's resignation, he spoke to him intensively for around three hours on a one-to-one basis.

From a conversation with Yuriy Petrov, your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent found out that,

despite rumors, there was no talk of a threefold reduction in the apparatus, or the unification of the presidential and government bodies, or even the appointment of Gennadiy Burbulis as some kind of dummy leader of a combined superadministration.

According to Yuriy Petrov's testimony, officials in the apparatus are not threatened with an inevitable reduction, although certain modifications are of course being envisaged. "The apparatus must indubitably correspond to the tasks facing it—both in terms of quantity and quality," Petrov said. The head of the president's administration reported that a plan for the reorganization of the apparatuses—increasing coordination between their various sections—was discussed with Yeltsin. Petrov noted, however, that there would be a reduction—it will affect the proliferation of committees and commissions under the president, whose number will be reduced three- or four-fold.

Yuriy Petrov also noted that "he agreed to stay on not because some kind of conditions were met but because I cannot say no to the president"... But at the same time he reported resolutely that Gennadiy Burbulis "will not have anything to do with either the administration, nor the president's apparatus." According to Petrov, Burbulis will evidently liase with public organizations and be responsible for "communication with the Supreme Soviet."

In this way, the inspirers of the implacable struggle against the "nomenklatura's revenge" and the supporters of the populist model of mutual relations between Yeltsin and the public have found themselves in the role of people running ahead of the locomotive. To put it in simple terms, Yeltsin did not "give up" Petrov despite strong pressure, and this evidently confirms the president's high degree of interest in his "main administrator."

Burbulis on Stable Power, Management System

LD2804174992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1312 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 28 TASS—"As long as Russia does not have a stable system of power and management, reforms cannot be efficient," Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis today told a conference on elaboration of the Russian Civil Service development concept.

The conference was held at the main department on civil servants' training under the Russian government.

Burbulis also stressed the elaboration of this concept will "enable the working out of a global concept of the Russian statehood." in his opinion, Russia is now lacking civil service in the international sense of this word.

Burbulis stressed the need to elaborate a clear legal regulation of the civil service sphere, noting the importance of the Russian president's recent decree on anti-corruption measures.

Law on Defense Industry Conversion Released

PM2804135492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Apr 92 p 6

["Russian Federation Law on Conversion of the Defense Industry in the Russian Federation," No. 2551-1, signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated Moscow, 20 March 1992]

[Text] The present Law defines the legal foundations for the activity of defense and associated enterprises, associations, and organizations in the conditions of the reduction or cessation of defense orders and the associated conversion of their production capacities, scientific and technical potential, and manpower resources.

The law regulates relations between Russian Federation organs of state administration and organs of state administration of national-state and administrative-territorial formations, and enterprises, associations and organizations during the conversion process, and guarantees protection of the interests of all participants in that process under conditions of market relations and the use of economic methods of management.

The law specifies the procedure for resolving legal, economic, and social questions arising during the conversion process, and is aimed at ensuring the most effective utilization for civil purposes of the production capacities, scientific and technical potential, and manpower resources of the enterprises undergoing conversion.

Section 1

General Provisions

Article 1. Main Terms and Definitions

1. In the present Law, conversion of the defense industry (hereinafter conversion) means the partial or complete reorientation from military to civil needs, under the procedure specified in this Law, of the freed production capacities, scientific and technical potential, and manpower resources of defense and associated enterprises, associations, and organizations.

2. An enterprise undergoing conversion is a production or science-and-production association or plant, design or research organization, or any other enterprise irrespective of form of ownership which is engaged in scientific and (or) production activity for military needs (that is, the production, development, research, testing, maintenance, and servicing of arms and military equipment and of subassemblies, materials, and specialized technological equipment for them, as well as the extraction, processing, reutilization, and storage of specialized types of raw and semifinished materials for the production of arms and military equipment used by the Armed Forces,

security organs, and law enforcement organs of the Russian Federation) at which the said activity is being reduced or terminated and where measures are consequently being implemented to produce civil output and reutilize military-technical facilities.

Defense enterprises in respect of which a decision has been adopted to terminate their activity or to eliminate them due to the technical and economic inexpediency of redesignating them, are also defined as undergoing conversion under the present Law.

Article 2. Principles of Conversion

1. The reduction or cessation of production activity for military needs at a defense enterprise is founded on decisions by Russian Federation organs of state power, and also on the de facto reduction of military expenditure for these purposes.

2. The main principle of work by enterprises undergoing conversion is the use of the high-technology capacities of the defense complex to produce output capable of competing on the foreign market.

3. The production capacities, scientific and technical potential, and manpower resources of defense sectors of industry that are freed during the conversion process are enlisted to implement priority state targeted programs for the socioeconomic development of the Russian Federation. Here account is taken of the requirements of the national economy, the proposals of the enterprises undergoing conversion, the scientific, technical, and production groundwork that has been built up at the enterprises undergoing conversion, the professional skills of the personnel, and the enterprises' specialization and technical equipment.

4. Enterprises undergoing conversion make provision on a contract basis, out of funds allocated for defense needs, for the creation, preservation, and development of mobilization capacities in accordance with the targets approved by the Russian Federation Government, and also for the preservation of the necessary servicing personnel.

5. Conversion takes place in the context of full observance of all norms laid down by Russian Federation legislation for the social protection of the personnel of enterprises undergoing conversion.

Section 2

Organization, Planning, and Finance of Defense Industry Conversion

Article 3. Planning of the Defense Order and Conversion

1. Planning of the state defense order for the development [razrabotka], production, and delivery of arms and military equipment (hereinafter the defense order) is based on the military doctrine of the Russian Federation and its basic principles. On the basis of the military doctrine of the Russian Federation adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, with the participation of the relevant ministries and departments, enterprises, associations, and organizations, draws up long-term programs for the development of arms and military equipment and programs for the creation, preservation, and development of mobilization capacities. Similar programs are drawn up by security organs and law enforcement organs of the Russian Federation.

In accordance with these programs long-term contracts are concluded and the defense order is approved. The said long-term programs are also used in the compilation of state conversion programs and are communicated to the interested enterprises undergoing conversion for the purposes of planning conversion and organizing production.

2. On the basis of the Russian Federation republic budget the details of the corresponding long-term programs are worked out, existing contracts are extended, and competitions are held for the fulfillment of new orders.

Conversion is reckoned to begin in the year in which the production and development of arms and military equipment is actually reduced or ceased at the enterprises, or in which the redesignation of uncommissioned capacities begins.

Article 4. Conversion Programs

1. The main role in organizing the switch from military to civil production and the drawing up of conversion programs belongs to the defense enterprise.

The basis for drawing up the conversion program at the enterprise consists of:

programs for the development and production of arms and military equipment and programs for supporting the activity of security organs and law enforcement organs of the Russian Federation;

programs for the creation, preservation, and development of mobilization capacities;

the order for the development, production, and delivery of output and goods for important state needs (including defense needs).

2. The drawing up of state conversion programs and the organization of their execution are carried out by the Russian Federation Ministry of Industry.

3. Regional conversion programs are drawn up by the organs of executive power of national-state and administrative-territorial formations, and also by conversion coordination councils or other organs promoting the processes of implementation of conversion in a region.

4. The participation of enterprises undergoing conversion in state and regional programs is strictly voluntary and based on the principles of economic interest and competitiveness.

Article 5. Finance and Material and Technical Provision for the Conversion Process

1. The procedure for finance and material and technical provision for the defense order is defined by means of a contract between the executor of the order and the client, concluded in accordance with Russian Federation legislation.

2. The procedure for finance and material and technical provision for work under state conversion programs is established in the said programs.

3. The material interest of the leader of a state enterprise undergoing conversion in improving the economic indicators (including that of maintaining the level of employment) is ensured by the terms of the contract concluded in accordance with Russian Federation legislation.

4. With a view to ensuring credit availability and the implementation of state conversion programs, a state conversion fund is set up. The sources and procedure for financing the said fund are determined by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet in the course of approving the Russian Federation republic budget.

5. Enterprises undergoing conversion are granted the right to form special centralized funds for the financing of research, experimental, design, and planning work, and also for the assimilation of new types of output. The said funds are formed on the basis of contributions from profits up to a level of 1.5 percent of the prime cost of the enterprises' commodity output (operations, services), such payments being deductible from the taxable base for the calculation of income tax (profit tax).

Article 6. Aspects of Reorganization and Privatization of Enterprises Undergoing Conversion

1. In the case of the full conversion of enterprises which belong to an association and are not legal persons in their own right, or of shops, sections, or other structural subdivisions of enterprises, they may be designated as autonomous state enterprises with the rights of a legal person. The decision to designate a subdivision as an autonomous state enterprise is made on a vote at a general meeting of the subdivision's labor collective, by a majority of the total number of members of the collective. Designation as an autonomous state enterprise takes place in accordance with Russian Federation legislation.

2. The labor collective of a state enterprise undergoing full conversion may submit an application for the privatization of its enterprise, participate, through its representatives, in the formulation of the privatization plan, and enjoy, in the privatization process, the privileges granted by Russian Federation legislation to members of enterprises' labor collectives.

3. In the case of partial conversion, an enterprise or its structural subdivision is privatized in accordance with Russian Federation legislation and the State Privatization Program.

4. Participation by foreign investors in the privatization of enterprises undergoing conversion takes place in accordance with the State Privatization Program, the RSFSR Law "On Foreign Investments in the RSFSR," and Russian Federation legislation on privatization.

5. Enterprises or structural subdivisions of enterprises whose purpose relates to mobilization and which are not used in current production are not subject to privatization.

Section 3

Social Protection. Compensations and Concessions for Enterprises Undergoing Conversion

Article 7. Social Protection for Workers at Enterprises Undergoing Conversion

1. Citizens of the Russian Federation working at enterprises undergoing conversion and also those who are freed as a result of conversion are entitled to social protection in accordance with the present Law and other legislative acts of the Russian Federation.

2. For workers at mining, metallurgical, radiochemical, and specialized assembly facilities in the uranium industry who are freed as a result of conversion, the period for which an unemployment allowance is received may be extended by up to two years by decision of the local soviet of people's deputies.

3. Workers freed as a result of conversion who had worked in defense sectors of industry for at least 15 years are entitled to the use of sector social facilities and sector medical services and to retain their place in the waiting line for housing, and are also granted preferential rights to individual housing construction or membership of housing construction cooperatives in all regions of the Russian Federation.

4. Cities and settlements where more than 20 percent of the employed population is made redundant as a result of conversion may be granted the status of priority development territories under Article 17 of the RSFSR Law "On Employment of the Population in the RSFSR."

5. The dismissal of workers from an enterprise undergoing conversion as a result of conversion is an additional condition of dismissal to be compulsorily recorded in the worker's labor record as a reason for dismissal.

6. The requirements set forth in Point 5 of the present article also apply to workers dismissed in accordance with Article 29 Points 5 and 6 and Article 33 Point 1 of the RSFSR Labor Law Code.

7. All concessions stipulated for labor collective members by Russian Federation legislation and the State Privatization Program are extended to unemployed workers dismissed from an enterprise undergoing conversion under Points 5 and 6 of the present article in the course of privatization of state enterprises.

Article 8. Compensations and Concessions for Enterprises Undergoing Conversion

1. Tax concessions for enterprises implementing conversion are established in accordance with Russian Federation taxation legislation.

2. State enterprises undergoing conversion are entitled, with the permission of the Russian Federation Government, to the accelerated amortization of a proportion of the fixed production capital, or—in the event of the complete removal of the defense order from them and the absence of the possibility of using the said capital in the civil sphere—to write off highly specialized equipment without amortization.

3. Where there is a reduction in the order for the production of arms and military equipment produced on specialized production lines, in specialized shops, or at numerically designated production units [na proizvodstvakh s rasstanovochnoy chislennostyu], and also in other cases leading objectively to an increase in the unit cost of the said output, on renewing the contract the client must, at the enterprise's request, revise prices for the output ordered on the basis of calculations submitted by the enterprise to ensure the production unit's profitability in the new conditions and to maintain the existing level of labor remuneration for workers at the said lines, shops, and production units.

4. In the event of failure to comply with the time scale stipulated in the present Law for communicating to defense industry enterprises the starting data relating to conversion, the losses sustained by these enterprises, including:

expenditure on the mothballing and maintenance of mobilization capacities, social measures, and compensation for increased costs of output resulting from a reduction in the production of arms and military equipment,

sums paid in penalties imposed by suppliers of raw and semifinished materials and subassemblies,

and other losses relating to loss of earnings for groundwork done on uncompleted output and the need to write off tools, gear, instruments, and equipment that cannot be used for the production of civil output,

—are compensated for by the Russian Federation Government out of Russian Federation republic budget resources, unless other provision is made in long-term contracts between enterprise and client.

5. Provision is made for enterprises undergoing conversion which produce, under conversion programs, equipment and machinery for the needs of the agro-industrial complex to receive compensation for a proportion of overheads, so as to ensure that price levels are no higher than world prices.

Section 4

Enterprises' Foreign Economic Activity in Conditions of Conversion

Article 9. Forms of Foreign Economic Activity

1. Enterprises undergoing conversion are entitled to carry out foreign economic activity autonomously in accordance with Russian Federation legislation.

Enterprises are entitled to:

export raw and semifinished materials and equipment freed in the course of conversion—on condition that they cannot be used for the production of civil output and taking into account the requirements of Article 10 of the present Law;

import new equipment and technologies, as well as subassemblies, for the production of civil output;

transfer (exchange and sell), in accordance with the specified procedure, technologies, licenses, know-how, and scientific and technical information which, prior to the commencement of conversion, were used in the development of arms and military equipment;

participate in conferences, symposiums, exhibitions, and fairs involving the demonstration of new materials, equipment, instruments, and publicity materials describing technologies which were formerly used in the production of arms and military equipment;

develop, produce, and sell arms and military equipment under licenses according to the procedure stipulated by Russian Federation legislation;

participate in cooperation with foreign firms in the development, production, and sale of military output in accordance with Russian Federation legislative acts making provision for the protection of the Russian Federation's military-technical interests.

2. The activity of enterprises with foreign investments is regulated by the RSFSR Law "On Foreign Investments in the RSFSR" and other Russian Federation legislative acts.

Article 10. Protection of the Russian Federation's Military Economic and Scientific and Technical Potential

1. To prevent damage to the Russian Federation's military economic and scientific and technical potential in the course of foreign economic activity by enterprises undergoing conversion, and also to ensure the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the said enterprises should be guided strictly by restrictions imposed on the export (transfer, exchange) of output and technologies that have a civil purpose but could be used in the creation of weapons of mass destruction. Restrictions on the export (transfer, exchange) of the said types of output and technologies are imposed by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and the Russian Federation Government.

2. In their foreign economic activity enterprises undergoing conversion are guided by the following provisions:

the export of strategic types of raw and semifinished materials and equipment takes place under licenses issued in each specific case in accordance with Russian Federation legislation;

the transfer of technologies, licenses, know-how, and scientific and technical information for the organization of the production of civil output and (or) their use in commercial and scientific and technical links with foreign firms are conditional on ensuring the protection of the Russian Federation's military-economic interests;

the sale to other states of arms and military equipment and specialized systems, complexes, functional units, and assemblies that are components of arms and military equipment and also technologies for their production takes place in accordance with the procedure specified by the Russian Federation Government.

[Signed] Russian Federation President

B.Yeltsin. Moscow, House of Soviets of Russia, 20 March 1992 No. 2551-1.

Military-Industrial Entrepreneurs Emerging

LD2804200292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin encounters considerable opposition from the military-industrial complex. Suffice it to say that, in the social aspect alone, the military-industrial complex accounts for 12 million employees, or even 30 million if taken together with their families.

[Begin Correspondent S. Suntsov recording] Quite a few critical remarks addressed to the government were voiced at this conference attended by leaders of major defense enterprises. There were complaints about the heavy burden of the director, who is responsible for both production and the destinies of hundreds of thousands of people. Individual calls for gathering all forces and putting pressure on evil-minded bureaucrats who have deprived a major branch of the national economy of support could be heard.

This can be understood. According to the estimates of experts, by the end of this year production may fall by 30 or even 50 percent. But the discussion was not colored by pessimism alone. Without relying on generous new injections from the state budget, the majority of leaders of the defense industry are seeking ways out of the situation, such as investments in their enterprises. This is why new entrepreneurs—commodity producers who have united in the League of Russian Industrialists—sat side by side with the directors in this hall. It is they precisely who are ready to take upon themselves the financing of a part of conversion programs. A curious admission was made by the director general of a major defense enterprise.

[A.N. Shulunov, director general of the Pleshakov Scientific and Production Association] We believe that today the defense industry must follow the same route as entrepreneurs and commodity producers and deal with the same matters. If we fail to preserve this potential, this will be a major tragedy for Russia.

[Suntsov] There are quite a few problems, and here is one of them.

[A.S. Soziyev, vice president of the League of Industrialists and Commodity Producers of Russia] Quite a lot of money has collected within commercial structures. Tens and hundreds of billions have been mentioned here. But there is no mechanism today which would make it possible for me to invest and protect my property rights, my investment in development, so to speak. This is one of the problems that will be raised with the government now, and we will be jointly searching for a solution. [end recording] [video shows proceedings in Moscow, the interviews]

Law Service for Armed Forces Created

LD2804184292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1622 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 28 TASS—An important role of ensuring order in troops, and the social and legal protection of the personnel will be assigned to the law service of the Russian Defence Ministry, Major-General Vladimir Nikitin, a member of the state commission to form Russia's Ministry of Defence, army and fleet, told ITAR-TASS today.

"We want to have competent lawyers in troops and to this end we rely on home and foreign experience in military construction," Nikitin, who is also first deputy department head of the main law agency, noted.

Specialists from the state commission say that the law service will cover all main links of the Russian Armed Forces—from a regiment and a ship to the Defence Ministry and the general staff. An assistant of the commander on legal issues will be the chief figure in the military-law service. He will be a member of the military council of the pertinent level.

Specialists for the service that will protect servicemen's rights will be trained in the re-established Military Law Academy alongside military judges, prosecutors and investigators.

Armed Forces Deaths Figures Revealed

PM2804131592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 3

[Report by correspondents Lieutenant Colonel A. Vorobyev and Captain B. Soldatenko: "'Secret' Stamp Removed, but Will That Mean Fewer Deaths in the Army?"]

[Text] On 24 April a news conference was held by Russian People's Deputy A. Alekseyev, chairman of the Russian Federation president's committee for the affairs of servicemen and members of their families. Once secret data relating to the death of servicemen in peacetime were made public. In particular participants in the news conference were issued with the report by committee chairman Alekseyev for President B.N. Yeltsin which under the stamp "passed" ["soglasovano"] carried the signatures of Colonel Generals D. Volkogonov, P. Grachev, V. Savvin, and I. Kalinichenko.

Here are just a few figures cited in the document:

Last year, in 1991, over 5,500 servicemen died in the Armed Forces and in addition 98,700 men were maimed or injured (in the first two months of 1992 there were already 12,348 injuries). Many servicemen are subjected every year to moral and physical insult and humiliation on the basis of so-called nonstatutory relations ("hazing" and "local favoritism"). Of course, interethnic conflicts in the CIS have added substantially to these phenomena. Incidentally, every year deaths in the U.S. Army are 1,600-1,800 men.

At the news conference journalists were told that the committee had made a number of suggestions to B.N. Yeltsin. They include creating special expert groups and commissions consisting of independent competent specialists to check the state of affairs in the Armed Forces and to elaborate proposals to reform them; the withdrawal of troops under Russian jurisdiction from the "hot" spots and other territories of the CIS and the withdrawal of Russian servicemen who have not sworn an oath of loyalty to the sovereign state; the abolition of military construction units; the Russian Government's adoption of a resolution "on the granting of benefits to the parents, wives, and underage children of servicemen and military construction workers who have died while serving in peacetime"; the creation of public and state reception centers for the affairs of servicemen and members of their families at the places where troops are stationed; and other measures.

Economic Resolution, IMF Terms Evaluated

PM2904095392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 92 First Edition p 1

[Commentary by Vladimir Sluzhakov: "Victim Fell in Battle for Budget"]

[Text] Contrary to all the claims that the Congress resolution on the progress of economic reform would reverse that reform, the IMF and the "G-7" countries have finally confirmed their readiness to grant Russia $24 billion in financial aid. Admittedly, on rather tough terms. In particular, the republic will have to introduce a single foreign exchange rate for the ruble, completely liberalize energy prices, and stop subsidizing loss-making enterprises. In turn, Gaydar made the extensive gesture of promising to reduce the budget deficit to 3 percent of GNP. Even though the government memorandum, which was written exclusively for the IMF, put the level of the deficit at 3.6 percent. Judging by the statement made by government adviser Ulyukayev before Gaydar flew to Washington, our Western partners would be perfectly happy with a level of 5 percent, which is the level we plan to attain by the end of the first half-year.

It is hard to say just what made the vice premier take such a serious step, and to what extent it is realistic. Since even the draft budget for the second quarter, which was recently submitted at a government session, has not had enough work done on it to ensure the necessary number of votes in parliament for its ratification.

Yes, the government, in its desire to settle up with the population on the basis of the first-quarter figures, has increased budget spending. Social and cultural spheres will be supported, subsidies to compensate citizens for price rises will increase somewhat, and the national economy will receive subsidies. But medics and teachers should not count on substantial support. Pray God they at least get back the money that was saved on them early in the year in order to achieve a balanced budget. So health care can be proud of the fact that it has been sacrificed as a favor to the IMF. And the government plans to make no concessions, at least for the time being, adhering to one strict rule—income and expenditure.

Will this stubbornness last long?

It could quite easily be the case that both the Congress resolution and the president's promise at his meeting with industrialists to ease industrial enterprises' tax burden—if only on domestic investments—so as to put the brakes on the destruction of industry, not to mention the cut in value-added tax to 20-22 percent, could remain just wishful thinking. The draft budget for the second quarter does not even hint at any tax changes.

In this sense it would be hard to accuse the government of inconsistency, were it not for one detail. This detail was noticed by deputies who support the reform team, and they rebuked the young ministers at one of the faction conferences at the Congress: Look, guys, how can you campaign for total restraint in favor of the budget when you are proposing to parliament a draft presidential decree cutting taxes on broking activities? How can we show people that the poverty-stricken people in our country are businessmen rather than medics? Incidentally, the thousands-strong demonstrations by traders who occupied all the central streets of the capital were very happy about this. A tax inspector would not have set foot in such crowds.

But although the draft for the second quarter at least declares a desire to carry out the law and replenish the treasury with taxes on all citizens and enterprises, it seems as though the government was least prepared to unfreeze energy prices. Virtually all the clarifications to the state's financial balance and budgetary system which emerge owing to changes in energy prices are scheduled

to be made only in the draft budget for 1992 as a whole. Even though back on 14 April the government should have announced its views of pricing policy to parliament. But these views have still not been heard. Nonetheless, the rise in energy prices—termed a leveling out—has already begun.

Back in March, when fierce debates were raging in the Supreme Soviet on the government's budget message, Supreme Soviet experts stated that the tenfold increase in oil prices, as announced in the memorandum, would cause the economy to seize up. The national economy would only be able to survive a doubling of prices—and even then only if around 700 billion rubles [R] were invested in machine building, metallurgy, power generation, and transportation. This is almost as much as total planned second-quarter spending. But, I reiterate, such investment has not been and is not envisaged in the draft budget.

Judging by Gaydar's statement in Washington, world pricing levels for energy sources will not be achieved before next year, 1993. But by no means everything is clear even with the so-called regulated prices which will be introduced in the weeks ahead and, as Ulyukayev put it, will "allow oil and gas producers to exist normally." What would be more efficient? Subsidizing the extraction of sources of energy or the entire industry? The government intends to come up with the answer after the holidays. But it seems as though Moscow's "black market" already knows the answer. There is not enough fuel at gas stations even at leveled-out prices. A canister of gasoline costs R500-600. Everyone is holding goods back, waiting for prices to be completely liberalized.

Economic Statistics Contradict Yeltsin Optimism

PM2904084392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 1

[Gennadiy Yastrebtsov article under the rubric "Dispassionate Statistics": "You Should Not Get Lost in Utopian Dreams"]

[Text] B. Yeltsin asserted at the recent congress that the "ideology based on shortages is being eliminated" here and that "positive changes have become apparent" in the economic sphere. We have succeeded in setting in motion a mechanism of economic activity which had rusted from disuse. Statistics, he claims, bear witness to the fact that the monthly rate of decline has practically not changed in comparison with 1991....

We would also like to be optimists, and write more about the Russian economy's achievements. But it is becoming more and more difficult to live. Let us turn to the opinion of independent experts, and to the official statistics.

The report by the specialist institute of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs points out in particular that an instant freeing of crude oil prices, as is expected, will provoke an increase in its price of 5.7 to 7.1 times. Combined with the price rise which the government has planned for gas and coal, this will lead to a growth in current outlay in the production sector as a whole of no less than 40 percent and a fall in profitability of approximately 13 percent. In the face of such a state of affairs, the government's assurances that liberalizing the prices for the fuel and energy complex's output will allegedly result in their overall increase being no greater than 50 to 70 percent, are recognized to be absolutely utopian.

The shortage of cash is hitting the economy hard. The leaders of the Central Bank of Russia are not able to say anything encouraging. This shortage is rising all the time. If on 1 February it amounted to 19 billion rubles [R], and on 1 March—20 billion, it was almost 40 billion at the beginning of April. In order to put the situation right in any way at all, it would be necessary to issue 80 billion in cash this month, but the State Bank Note Factory will hardly be able to cope with such an order. It is clear that no more than R60 billion will be printed. As the experts assert the limited amount of money in circulation may not influence the size of the price rises for goods immediately but only with some delay. The producers will put up prices taking into consideration the new wave of inflationary expectations and will not wish to lower them, as has already happened in January and February. Consumers will not be able to afford to purchase resources at these prices and then the country will be hit by another possibly more serious crisis of solvency.

A report from the Russian State Statistics Committee on the social and economic situation in the first quarter leaves us in no doubts as to the fact that we are continuing to live through the deepest of crises. The national income fell by 14 percent in comparison with what it was in the first quarter of last year. The volume of industrial production fell by 13 percent. Losses of working time amounted to more than 260,000 man-days. Due to a reduction in production during the first three months, the number of unemployed rose from 70,000 to 118,000. In the coming months a further 500,000 more people will be "relieved" of their posts.

The food deficit is being felt more and more. In the first quarter the production and purchase of livestock output fell sharply. Due to a shortage of feed, the reserves of which are now one-third less than a year ago, farms are being forced to reduce their numbers of livestock.

In the circumstances of this catastrophic fall in production, and the disruption of economic ties, social protection for the population has proved to be so poor that there are already more than 50 million people, almost one-third of Russia's population, who have a monthly income which does not even reach the minimum living wage.

So it is very unfortunate that the "positive changes" for the moment exist more as a mirage in the bosses' minds than in actual reality. The state statistics service really is very sparing in its assessments of economic policy, but

this time even it could not restrain itself, and among the factors preventing an improvement in our lives it directly mentioned a "certain loss of control."

Private Farms More Than Doubled Since Jan

PM2904095792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Valeriy Konovalov: "Already 100,000 Private Farmers"]

[Text] The number of peasant (private) farms in the Russian Federation has doubled in the first four months of this year: As of 1 January there were 49,000 of them and now, according to the very latest data, there are over 100,000 of them. The average size of a private farmer's plot of land is 41 hectares.

Such a sharp quantitative growth of Russian private farming is an almost sensational fact when compared with the very recent boldest forecasts, but is easily explained by current realities. The reorganization of kolkhozes and sovkhozes undertaken by the government has considerably facilitated and stimulated the process of the peasants' leaving collective farming. It was precisely in March, when the main stage of reforming most kolkhozes and sovkhozes was completed, that the lion's share of the increase in private farmers fell.

Yet there are far fewer conditions promoting private farming than problems inhibiting the new system's development. Normative restrictions very often prevent peasants from obtaining sufficient land to conduct commodity production. Congress' ban on the buying and selling of land makes this framework even more rigid and difficult to overcome. Prices for machinery and other resources and high bank loan interest rates have become ruinous for peasants...Nevertheless, not only are private farmers not giving up their land but they are also augmenting their rows and intend, according to data from a Goskomstat [State Committee for Statistics] poll, to considerably increase both their sown areas and livestock headcount this year.

This phenomenon can be explained only by the great viability of the system itself and many private farmers' certain stake on agricultural business and the cooperative movement.

Here is just one example. Conditions for the development of private farming in Dagestan are not the most favorable—because of the specific nature of local agriculture and the natural environment itself. As yet there are relatively few autonomous peasant farms here, and their average area is quite small—only four hectares. However, the new system in the republic has managed to get well organized and become a real force. Two private farming associations even sprung up here, but rather than opposing each other they are cooperating, sharing functions. One of them—DAKKA, headed by 27-year-old Fikret Guseynov—is engaged mainly in commerce and organizing peasants' agricultural business. It has been extremely prosperous in this, forging barter trade ties with the Don, the Kuban, and even Turkey. DAKKA's own-brand stores are opening in many cities and republics, the necessary infrastructure is being created around peasant farms, and kolkhozes and sovkhozes, the proprietors of private plots, processors, transport workers, and trade enterprises are involved in cooperative ventures with private farmers. The association itself is quickly consolidating its market and business positions: It has become a shareholder in a number of major Russian companies, a founder of the Russian Investment Company (Rosink) which is being set up now, and the main founder of the "Tsvety Rossii" firm...All this in turn makes it possible to protect the local private farmer and expand his growth potential.

Many private farming organizations prefer this road. One can say that the new system is choosing agricultural business and cooperative ventures. In the opinion of V. Bashmachnikov, president of the AKKOR Russian private farming association, it is this stake on the formation of diverse private farming cooperative structures that will enable the private peasant farm in Russia not only to survive but also to ultimately become predominant.

Trade Union Confederation Issues Demands

PM2904100392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 1

[Report by correspondent Yegor Kozhukhov: "News Conference: Confederation of Free Trade Unions Ultimatum"]

[Text] The Central Coordinating Council of the Russian Confederation of Free Trade Unions [RCFTU] held a news conference yesterday at the "Red October" factory club. RCFTU Chairman Aleksandr Alekseyev addressed journalists and said that the RCFTU has no confidence in the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, being an organization that expresses the interests of the employer. In this context, the RCFTU has set up a coordinating commission comprising representatives of strike committees and labor collectives from many regions of the Russian Federation. The aim is to formulate general demands for the government.

No specific figures were given with regard to the first and main point in the demands—that wages be increased. However, figures were mentioned in statements by regional representatives, ranging from 9,000 rubles per month upward. Undoubtedly, trade unions in any civilized society have the right or even the duty to make such demands. But given the real economic situation and the increasing lack of cash, the government will obviously be simply unable to meet them.

Now another fact of no small significance. Despite Alekseyev's statement about renouncing political demands, the above demands contained a point providing for the creation of parallel structures of power at local level and local self-government.

Rutskoy Role in Party Honorary, Not Official

OW2904105692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1020 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Free Russia People's Party points to the absence of any facts or juridical circumstances suggesting that Aleksandr Rutskoy combines posts in state and party bodies. A corresponding statement was circulated on Wednesday [29 April] by this party's press service, after the Russian Procurator's Office issued a directive on inadmissibility of combining the leading posts in state and public bodies.

The document says that the post of the Free Russia People's Party's chairman, held by Aleksandr Rutskoy, is honorary, not official, because the party rules do not reserve for him any powers or responsibilities. "The party's central bodies are not trying to influence him as vice-president, while Aleksandr Rutskoy himself does not lay claims on a role in running the party affairs," says the statement.

Workers' Congress Sets Up Opposition

PM2804094192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Apr 92 p 2

[Correspondent Andrey Shishov report under the "April Theses 92" rubric: "Russia Threatened by Dictatorship of New Proletariat"]

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod—The first All-Russian Congress of Workers' Soviets, which came to an end last Sunday [19 April] in Nizhniy Novgorod, has established a structure in opposition to the supreme state power in Russia and the Russian Federation.

At the 18 April evening session the congress created a situation of dyarchy, as in 1917, by forming a Russian Executive Committee—the prototype of a future proletarian government—headed by Dmitriy Igoshin, a worker at the "Krasnoye Sormovo" plant.

The delegates at the congress, who simultaneously became deputies of their soviets, stressed that their actions take into account the experience of the democrats who have seized power, who have broken up the soviets and established city halls and prefectures.

"There is nothing illegal about the organization of the Russian Executive Committee," Yuriy Slobodkin, Russian people's deputy and rayon court chairman, stated. "Existing legislation does not forbid workers from setting up their own organizations at all levels to oppose the course of the so-called market reforms being implemented by a government that has gone on the warpath against its own citizens. If Russian people's deputies correctly assess this event in political terms and keep all of the workers' demands and aspirations in the forefront of their minds, it will be possible to find a positive solution to the social conflict that has developed. If this does not happen, workers may justifiably resort to a general political strike," Yuriy Slobodkin stressed. "The strike will force the government to resign and the workers will seize power before the next election. And this will be legitimate. The people will take back the power which they won in 1917 and which was perverted by those who wielded this power," the judge concluded.

History is thus repeating itself 75 years on. V. Lenin's April Theses have been replaced by the documents of the present congress, one of which expresses support for the alternative draft constitution formulated by the Russian neo-Communists, and another envisages the virtual elimination of the right to private property and a person's right to freely choose what he does.

In this situation, in order to avoid unnecessary complications, the young Russian Government, whose excessive optimism about the advent of happy days is not, it turns out, shared by those whose duty is to bring these days closer through their own labor, would, it seems, do well to recall Voltaire's practice of rewriting his works if his cook could not understand them.

In order to calmly continue the reforms, the government should address unskilled and semiskilled groups of workers who make up the majority in industry and agriculture, and not just "shepherd" the "white collar" workers alone.

The numerous publications of the resurgent independent workers' press circulated at the congress said a resolute "no" to the policy of privatization and the market which the reform cabinet is implementing.

The speakers at the workers' congress noted that most of their colleagues were not yet ready for a difficult political struggle owing to their lack of awareness and organization, but it is precisely this course that the newfound proletarian leaders regard as decisive in the struggle for power.

Their sense of class, which is still only emerging, initially made the congress deputies disavow support for any political party or social movement. But they did not manage to remain entirely independent. Like the Bolsheviks, the present-day neo-Communists have succeeded in winning over the workers by propagandizing the possibility of building a so-called workers' society through the dictatorship of a new proletariat disguised as workers' soviets, as was unambiguously stated at a news conference after the congress had finished.

In current conditions, when Russia is being sold off to transnational corporations, when a new class of Russian capitalists is mushrooming, and when most of the population is continuing to get poorer, the appeal to common human values and civil peace is hypocrisy, Professor Aleksey Sergeyev, a former candidate for the post of Russian vice president, stated; together with Yu. Slobodkin and General A. Makashov he has been elected a candidate for inclusion in the future workers' government.

The professor confirmed that after winning power by constitutional means, the workers "will take control of the activity of all independent publications engaged in misleading or brainwashing the population," forgetting to mention that the notorious party press and its mouthpiece PRAVDA engaged in the very worst form of exactly the same thing. And at the same time the surprising thing is that, according to those taking part in the news conference, in the new Soviet Russia all human rights except, of course, the main one—the right to make a free choice—will be observed.

The workers' soviets do not rule out the possibility that spontaneous mass antigovernment actions will begin in the very near future, and they intend to channel these into a civilized form of protest in order to prevent civil war from springing up on the soil of the resurgent theory of class struggle, workers' government leader Dmitriy Igoshin stressed.

The delegate deputies demanded that the Gaydar government raise wages in step with the increase in prices. The congress showed that today compromise is practically impossible between the market government and unfortunate working people.

In this ancient Volga city the workers were represented by 97 delegates with full voting rights from 54 cities, including major centers like Moscow, St. Petersburg, Chelyabinsk, Kaliningrad, and Vladivostok. There were guest speakers from the Dniester region and Lithuania.

It has been decided to start preparations for the Second Congress of Workers' Soviets, which is scheduled to take place in six months' time in Nizhniy Novgorod and at which a new constitution may be adopted.

Communist Workers Deny Violations Charges

OW2804151492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a news conference on Tuesday [28 April], the leaders of the Russian Communist Workers' Party [RCWP] turned down charges, brought against it by the Ministry of Justice, as "ungrounded and biased". This party was accused of violating Russian laws. Responding to charges of involving servicemen in the political struggle, the RCWP's leader Richard Kosolapov said that his party had appealed to servicemen only to support the working people's struggle for their rights and never instigated any armed attempts to overthrow the government." [quotation marks as received] As to the plans to hoist a red flag above the Kremlin, Richard Kosolapov said that his party had done so on many occasions and that it was the private affair of any political association to decide whether or not to hoist a flag, particularly the red flag. "I wonder why the Ministry of Justice was silent when the tricolor tsarist flag could be seen everywhere, although it was not the state flag," he said. Neither did the RCWP offend the Russian president's pride and dignity, he continued. "Our documents give a political assessment of the Russian leaders' activity, which is rather tough." he said. "This must have displeased certain people, he added.

"It looks like justice in Russia has been blinded, not merely blind-folded," said Aleksey Sergeyev, a member of this party's organizing bureau. He also said that the RCWP had not received any official statements from the Ministry of Justice.

Movement Supports Government Bodies' Reform

LD2804124792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1230 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 28 ITAR-TASS—Democratic Russia declares for a serious reform of government bodies and for lawfully holding preterm elections, Kiryll Ignatyev, member of the coordinating council of this influencial socio-political movement, told ITAR-TASS.

He said that the draft law "on the government of the Russian Federation" submitted by Russian President Boris Yeltsin was discussed at the latest meeting of the Coordination Council on Sunday [26 April]. Democratic Russia movement on the whole supported the presidential bill and suggested several amendments. The movement, for instance, questions the provision in the document that a member of government cannot participate in political parties and movements. Leaders of Democratic Russia believe that instead of this it is necessary to introduce a provision that a government member should not give financial support to political parties and movements.

As to the attitude of the government composition, Ignatyev said that Democratic Russia fully supports the team of first Vice President Yegor Gaydar and believes that "the government's economic team should not undergo changes".

Democratic Russia movement has now concentrated its attention on two aspects—the activity of public committees promoting reforms that were set up by the movement and that function in all Russian regions, and the preparation for referendums. Democratic Russia has already begun setting up centres in support of referendums on such matters as the land reform, the adoption of the new constitution and the holding of elections.

Congress of People's Deputies

Shakhray Says Congress 'Let the Steam Out'

OW2804170692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from issue No. 61 of the "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The only positive result of the 6th congress of people's deputies is that it acted as a political and social valve to let the steam out. This personal opinion was expressed in the Kremlin on Tuesday by Russian State Adviser Sergey Shakhray. IF [INTERFAX] correspondent Andrey Pershin quotes Shakhray as saying that battles in parliament were much better than battles in the streets. The congress removed excessive social strain and became a stabilizing factor, he said. "As a result, all of the political forces got trapped into the illusion that they can attain their goals within the limits of parliamentary struggle," said Shakhray.

Among the congress's negative results is that Russia's burning problems were "driven into an even darker corner". He also said that society was in the fetters of the dangerous illusion that the president and the government had emerged victorious from the congress and that all disagreements with the parliament were settled. "Nothing of the kind happened, he said, "and this is extremely dangerous."

He said that following the congress the Russian government became provisional, although according to previous plans it was to work for a year on the basis of the constitution. Its term will expire the day the parliament adopts a new law on the council of ministers. Sergey Shakhray said that the parliament will try to adopt a law on the Cabinet in May. This will be possible due to Nikolay Ryabov's amendment to the resolution on the implementation of the economic reform which has removed the provision specifying who exactly should present a draft law on the Cabinet. The amendment turned down by the congress reserves this right exclusively for the president. Now any MP [member of parliament] can do so. If the president vetoes the parliament's decision in May, the second discussion of the question will be put off to June.

Sergey Shakhray noted that formally the post of the Russian Federation's premier is vacant now, while the head of the Cabinet can only be appointed with the parliament's agreement. If the parliament approves Vladimir Shumeyko's nomination to the post of premier, the Gaydar team will resign, said Shakhray.

He said that a week after the congress opened, when the deputies realized that they would fail to pass the vote of no-confidence to the government and that an absurd situation finally took shape, he offered the president to change the course of the congress. To do so, one had to raise three questions: those of confidence to the government; the adoption in principle of the law on the Cabinet and submission of Yegor Gaydar's nomination to the post of premier for approval. Such a plan did not suit many people and was rejected, and the congress did not play the role of referee in the dispute between the parliament and the government.

Shakhray expressed the opinion that disagreements between the parliament and the government may be settled legally only by a new congress or a referendum which could be held still in the summer or autumn.

He is convinced that the former party bureaucracy has moved into the parliament's committees and commissions, and that it constituted 70 to 80 per cent of the territorial and regional councils. In a number of regions its percentage was smaller - 45 per cent. In Shakhray's estimate, following the congress the president may reckon on support of 8 to 14 per cent of the MPs.

Problems 'Driven Inside'

LD2804193992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1842 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 28 TASS—Russian State Adviser Sergey Shakhray believes that the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies has played the role of a political and social valve: The struggle at the congress was conducted by parliamentary methods and as a result pressure in society appeared to drop significantly. In a talk with journalists in the Kremlin today, Shakhray described this as the only positive result of the congress.

However, the main problem proved to be "driven inside": An illusion appeared that power remained in the hands of the president and his government, contradictions between the Supreme Soviet and the government were ironed out and reform will continue. But this is not how matters stand, Shakhray believes.

It is dangerous that the government "has become provisional", Shakhray stressed. The president's powers to change the cabinet's structure will end on the day when the Supreme Soviet adopts a law on the government. Shakhray thinks that parliament will try to adopt this law as early as in May rather than in three months. If the president uses the veto right, this will only defer the move until the beginning of June.

It will be possible to solve the problems that were "driven inside" either at the next congress or at a referendum, Shakhray believes. He does not hope however that the situation at the next congress will be more favourable and a referendum can aggravate the situation in the country.

Shakhray intends to set out his viewpoint about the congress in the analytical document for the Russian leadership.

Filatov Reviews Congress, Relations With CIS

PM2704112092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Apr 92 pp 1-2

[Sergey Filatov article under the rubric "Sixth Congress: Summing Up": "Commonwealth Helps To Reform Russia"]

[Text] A keen debate was prompted at the Congress by the discussion of the question of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Why the necessity to include this question on the agenda?

Many people's deputies, perceiving the CIS as a reality, sought to make constructive proposals on strengthening and developing the Commonwealth. Another group of people's deputies sought to use the discussion of this question to revise the Agreement ratified by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, with a view to reviving the USSR.

The signing, on 3 December 1991 in Minsk and 21 December in Alma-Ata, of the Agreement and Declaration on the Commonwealth was perceived by the leadership of Russia and the other republics as the logical consequence of the processes that had been developing in the USSR over a long period, a consequence of the profound crisis of statehood. The conclusion was this: The Union structures, in the shape of the highest institutions of power and the specific keepers of that power, are incapable of radical renewal. They had put their last efforts into preserving omnipotence and thus became the main obstacle to the implementation of the necessary reforms. The Union treaty that had been drawn up was trampled underfoot in the days of the August putsch, which was brewed and prepared deep in the heart of the Union leadership. After August, the disintegration of the USSR became inevitable, and entered its final stage. Its death throes began. The majority of the republics proclaimed their independence, and some of them officially seceded from the Union and were recognized at an international level.

On 1 December 1991 the people of Ukraine voted for independence in a referendum. Ukraine refused to sign the Union treaty. The consequences of this were obvious: Major disruptions of the geopolitical equilibrium in the world, the introduction of state borders, national currencies, separate armies, and so forth. In these conditions it was impossible to conclude the treaty without Ukraine. The signing of the Agreement in Minsk was seen as a necessary move in order firmly to halt the unfavorable course of events.

Let me draw attention to the main results of the creation of the CIS at the moment of the Agreement's ratification. First, the process of spontaneous, anarchic disintegration of the common space inhabited by our peoples was halted. Second, a quest began for a formula for joint life in the new conditions of a Commonwealth of Independent States, rather than in a state where nobody actually had independence. Third, agreement was reached on collaboration in the implementation of economic reform over the entire area of the CIS. Fourth, the Agreement made provision for close cooperation in ensuring peace and security and the common desire for the elimination of all nuclear arms, and indeed for complete disarmament. Fifth, it enshrined the unity of the military-strategic area and nuclear forces under joint command. And these were questions of concern not only to our countries' peoples, but to the whole world.

I would particularly like to highlight the accords reached on human rights, in line with the generally recognized norms of international law, and also the recognition of the principle of open borders for citizens of our countries.

On 12 December 1991 the Supreme Soviet examined the Agreement on the Creation of the CIS, ratified it in accordance with Article 109 of the Constitution, and proposed to all the states that were formerly union republics of the USSR—irrespective of national, religious, and other differences—which share the ideas of the Agreement, that they join the Commonwealth for the purposes of mutually beneficial cooperation in the interests of all the peoples. On 21 December 1991 the Commonwealth comprised not three, but 11 states.

By the beginning of December 1991 all the Union republics had embarked on a path of autonomous development. The Belovezhskaya agreements, contentious though they were, and though they may have had certain legal and constitutional shortcomings and omissions, were the logical culmination of a fait accompli: the fall of a great empire.

It should also be borne in mind that the USSR was a federation on the basis of the 1922 Treaty, and from 1936 on the basis of the Constitution. Both the Treaty and the Constitution guaranteed the republics belonging to the Union the right to secede freely. A number of states took advantage of that right—Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia. Their independence was recognized by a resolution of the Union State Council of 6 September 1991. The remaining components of the Union exercised their right to autonomy almost simultaneously—in December 1991. And their highest organs of representative power gave legal form to the breakup of the Union.

Thus the reality is that the decisions on the abolition of the USSR and the creation of the CIS were made not unilaterally, but by all the independent republics. That is why attempts to call into question the validity of the formation of the CIS are groundless. There are neither legal, nor political, nor any other grounds for a return to the former statehood. This is a legal reality which exists and which the Congress validated in the new name of the state. The new legal status of the CIS member states is now recognized by the entire world community, including the United Nations and other international organization. This also testifies to the quality and durability of the legal state formations on the territory of the former Union.

That is the objective state of affairs. Like it or not, we have to be realists.

The CIS is taking its first steps, and making mistakes in the process. But its existence meets the vital interests of Russia and the other independent states.

What conclusions do people abroad frequently reach when they try to understand Russia's policy within the CIS and in the world? That the Russian Empire is mortally sick and is trying in agony to lick its wounds. That the traditions of Soviet totalitarianism are ineradicable, and further recurrences lie in store for us. That we will remain forever a third-class state with a self-devouring economy, destroying our own natural and human resources.

And what do we think ourselves? That we have lost forever our forefathers' territory. That history demands the restoration of lost borders.

But what is the reality? Of course, Russia has entered a complex phase, the culminating phase of its development. The phase of painful cleansing that our Motherland is now going through is the prelude to its rebirth, which is coming, and coming soon. Rebirth as a unified, strong, economically prosperous, democratic country. And the formation of the CIS is not only a means of formalizing the objectively inevitable breakup of the USSR, it is also an opportunity to preserve and subsequently strengthen the links between our peoples. The Commonwealth's future lies in its reformist orientation in the economy and commitment to the principles of democracy in politics.

If you assess what has happened since the ratification of the CIS Agreement, it must be noted that there are not only pluses here, but unfortunately minuses too. It has not proved possible to alleviate interethnic conflicts. The large-scale armed clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Dniester region have become extremely dangerous in nature. Relationships in the economic sphere have become more complex, and serious obstacles have appeared in the path of the movement of finances and goods.

The breakup of the economic and legal space, the nonfulfillment of mutual delivery and payment commitments, and the uncoordinated implementation of reforms and monetary and credit policy disrupted economic links. The lack of experience of collaboration in the new conditions made it impossible to take steps in good time to resolve problems and neutralize negative phenomena.

All this did nothing to help prevent a fall in volumes of production, an increase in inflation and unemployment, and a decline in the population's living standard.

It can be considered a positive feature that we have been given a real opportunity to implement economic reform. From 1 January 1992 the Bank of Russia went over to interbank settlements with other republics by way of correspondent accounts. It established a system making it possible every month to monitor the balance of payments by means of interrepublic noncash settlements, which has considerably lessened the danger of an increase in the money supply through credit expansion by the republics' central banks, uncontrolled by the Bank of Russia.

The possibility has arisen of applying the generally accepted norms of interstate economic relations, including world prices. This last provision is enshrined in all the economic agreements that have been concluded.

Of course, the CIS is still a weak child. There are instances of certain states failing to fulfill the agreements signed, in particular on military questions. No mechanism has been formulated to ensure responsibility for the commitments assumed. But if we want to preserve hope of unification and the strengthening of fraternal ties and mutual responsibility in future, then every possible support for this process is necessary within the framework of the CIS.

The Russian parliament is channeling its efforts into expanding cooperation with the CIS and establishing closer, all-around relations, including economic integration. Agreements were signed in Minsk, Moscow, and Alma-Ata on the creation of an interparliamentary assembly, on the development of cooperation at the level of committees and commissions, and on the creation of an interparliamentary reference and information service. An active process is under way of involving the CIS countries' parliaments in the processes of strengthening the CIS.

Efforts within the framework of interparliamentary cooperation are aimed at aligning the legislation of the CIS countries in the sphere of common interests and discussing topical political and socioeconomic problems, the defense of citizens' rights, and questions of regulating conflict situations in the Commonwealth.

In order to achieve these goals a clear stance is needed on the part of the body of deputies. Calling into question the Agreement on the CIS does nothing to promote the development of relations on a progressive basis between the participants, and undermines confidence in Russia. Thus during the adoption of amendments to the Russian Federation Constitution some of the deputies blocked amendments to a number of articles aimed at deleting terms such as "USSR Constitution" and "USSR." Referring to their responsibility to the people, who have not yet voted against the Union, and disregarding the established realities, they are stubbornly trying to revive the former USSR. In present-day conditions this means that their efforts are aimed not at reviving the Russian state, but at creating the foundations for an attempt to restore (create) a second power in Russia.

We must reflect on this seriously and ponder all the consequences. Dual power will inevitably lead to destabilization, division, and civil war.

The peoples of Russia and the other sovereign states have all the objective prerequisites for tackling economic and political tasks jointly within the Commonwealth framework. We have a unique energy and railroad system, and at the moment an integrated monetary and credit sphere. But the main thing we all possess is the

desire for continued collaboration on the part of peoples who have lived together for centuries.

Russia is a great power. That is its right, fostered by history. Such is its place in the world, such is its material and spiritual potential. By putting that potential at the service of democracy in our own country, at the service of Russia within the framework of the CIS, we gain new political and moral weight as a full member of the world community.

Deputies Succeeded 'With Difficulty'

PM2704133792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 92 p 2

[Interviews with Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republic; Viktor Sheynis, deputy senior secretary of the Constitutional Commission; and Aleksandr Vladislavlev, first vice president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and cochairman of the International Movement for Democratic Reforms, by unidentified ITAR-TASS, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondents; place and date not given: "Express Interviews"]

[Text] [Ryabov] The Congress of People's Deputies succeeded in performing its tasks, albeit slowly and with difficulty. Some people think that it should be retained, while others thinks that it is time for it to withdraw. Be that as it may, it must recede into history in a civilized manner. And we must not treat it as we did the Union, as some people are now suggesting. Everyone can see what the results were: no congress, no Supreme Soviet, no union with a president. That is why, in the period allotted to the present set of deputies, new organs of power have to be formed based on a new Constitution. During this preparatory period the Congress will back their formation and then...

Where did the Congress fail? Above all it did not keep to time. I personally am not satisfied with the resolution on the second item on the agenda. It lacks a certain clarity. And deputies are now dispersing to the localities with troubled thoughts about unclear financial and credit policy and unresolved questions in the social sphere. Although on the last day of the Congress the Supreme Soviet found time to adopt a law on a minimum wage of 900 rubles. Pensions have also been brought up to that level. This is to be brought into force as of 1 May.

Now a word about the constitution. Regrettably, some people are now starting to act, I think, provocatively, saying that Russia has no constitution. Excuse me, but we have the current one. The adopted addenda and amendments have considerably filled it out and brought it into line with realities: on human rights, federative relations, and the judicial system. The draft Fundamental Law formulated by the Constitutional Commission was discussed at the Congress, work on it will continue. One must not forget that this draft will be submitted to public discussion.

[Sheynis] The experience of the Congress has taught us one thing—it must not discuss a whole string of problems. That is simply pointless. In the future it should merely resolve the questions no one else would tackle. For instance, the question of the Constitution. Anything else should be passed over to the Supreme Soviet.

As a member of the Constitutional Commission, I am satisfied that the Congress discussed our draft as intended. A principled decision was adopted. Although it could have been more definite. The wording "adopted as a base" would have been better than "approve the fundamental provisions." The Congress was right in rejecting the other drafts submitted.

[Vladislavlev] An encouraging result of the Congress is that extremes between deputies' conservative, probolshevik, and radical-democratic positions were glossed over.

There are no grounds for dramatizing the situation over the draft of the new Russian Constitution. The state's Fundamental Law must enshrine the main democratic gains of society, the supreme legislative organ's fundamental decisions. Since the supreme foundation—the Law on Land—has not yet been adopted and a number of other legal acts do not exist, there is no point in rushing with a new constitution lest it too needs revision in a while.

Northern Peoples Outstanding Problems Cited

OW2504010092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1753 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Interview with Yeremei Aipin (name as received), chairman of the Deputies' Assembly of the Smaller Peoples of the North, by Marina Chernukha; place and date not given; from "Nation & Society"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Sixth Congress of People's Deputies of Russia passed a decision on the social and economic situation in the northern regions of the country. However, Yeremei Aipin [name as received], chairman of the Deputies' Assembly of the Smaller Peoples of the North, does not believe this solves all the problems these peoples have. He says so in an interview he has given to our correspondent Marina Chernukha.

Corr.: How serious, do you think, are the ethnic problems in the North? Has anything changed in that way since the Soviet Union fell apart?

Yeremei Aipin: You see, at the moment the market reforms have served to aggravate the situation, since practically all northern peoples have found themselves among the poorer sections of the population. But, on the other hand, I think there will be improvements in future. We have reasons for optimism.

Corr.: What reasons, in particular?

Y.A.: Well, first of all, a federal treaty has been signed, which provides for considerable autonomy for the northern regions populated by smaller peoples. Secondly, we have set up our own political institutions. In January, for example, we had the Deputies' Assembly of the Smaller Peoples of the North registered. It had a congress last May. Also in January, the government gave its approval to the institution of the Fund for the Survival and Economic and Cultural Development of the Smaller Peoples of the North. The fund will shortly be registered by the Ministry of Justice. Apart from this, we now have a newspaper called Slovo Narodov Severa [The Word of the Peoples of the North], which we had registered early this year.

Corr.: Why, do you think, the congress refused to approve the constitution draft?

Y.A.: The draft submitted to the congress somehow pushed the national minorities issue into the background. We are very worried about this. We have repeatedly been told that a constitution should proclaim general human principles, but, if it ignores the inequality which exists between smaller peoples and larger ones who have well-developed state and economic structures, we shall find it very difficult to survive in the new situation.

Corr.: What, in your opinion, would be the optimum solution?

Y.A.: I believe the main thing is to make the smaller northern peoples owners of their land and of some of the mineral resources they have on their territory. They don't have to own all of them, but some of them at least. This should be a right formalized in the constitution. I think this would ultimately benefit not only the smaller peoples but all peoples populating Russia.

Corr.: What do you think of the general urge to go for sovereignty?

Y.A.: It doesn't annoy me. I think it's a very natural process. If you keep somebody in a cage for a long time and then let him out, he's sure to be doing things that would surprise others. This is what is actually happening to some of our republics and other autonomous divisions which have at last been given freedom but don't know what to do with it. But things are bound to be normalized in time. If a republic gets a degree of autonomy for which it can't provide a proper legal or economic basis, it'll have to give it up either to its neighbors or to the center, that is to Russia. What's happening now is a natural but transitory process.

Debate on Federation, Name Change Pondered

PM2804143192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 92 pp 1, 2

[Article by Yuriy Yarov: "Sixth Congress: We Sum Up Results. New Form of State Unity"]

[Text] It is not two years since new organs of RSFSR state power were formed—the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet—pointing to and expressing the emergent democracy. Six Congresses of RSFSR People's Deputies have been held in this period. The Sixth Congress began as a Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies and ended as a Congress of Russian People's Deputies. What does the change of name mean for the country?

Despite what various quarters are saying to the effect that the move from RSFSR to Russian Federation-Russia heralds an acceleration of the process of disintegration, I would like to remark that it is the transition to a new form of state unity for Russia's peoples that is opening up the way to building in the sphere of interethnic relations and state development. The normalization of this area of sociopolitical life will have a favorable effect on all other areas.

The emergence of a new form of state—the "Russian Federation-Russia"—did not occur suddenly. The country's supreme organ of state power—the Congress of People's Deputies—embarked on this in the person of the people's elected representatives. This moment in history that has taken almost two years has been filled with intensive intellectual work in the quest for the best forms of organization for our multiethnic homeland. The congress of people's deputies proved to be a political creative laboratory developing a new form of state unity. This is based on the Federation Treaty, although it must not be considered the only mainstay of the state's new (compared with RSFSR) name. Since the Federation Treaty is nonetheless an important and, consequently, essential feature of the transformations, I would remind you that Russian President B.N. Yeltsin first voiced this idea at the First Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies. Then he was only speaking as a people's deputy during the discussion of Vorotnikov's report, but he is responsible for the idea of perfecting federative relations on the basis of the Federation Treaty.

Giving this idea material form, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted a special Resolution on Federative Relations and the Federation Treaty 17 July 1991. The Federation Council, in conjunction with the Soviet of Nationalities, was instructed to formulate this question. It fell to Soviet of Nationalities Chairman R.G. Abdulatipov to provide specific leadership of this work.

The Federation Council and the Soviet of Nationalities set up several working groups. They included RSFSR people's deputies, representatives of republics, krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations, and scientists. The quest for new forms of federative relations proved difficult. Russia is a unique kind of phenomenon. Historically its peoples have had various forms of existence. Some had republics, others autonomous okrugs and oblasts, while others still had krays and oblasts. Each of these types of formation is inhabited by dozens of nationalities and constitutes an integral part of the single whole—the RSFSR.

Consequently, the question of equal rights for all three kinds of formation is a highly important issue.

On the other hand, it is understandable that an autonomous okrug, for instance, cannot be equivalent to a republic. What is to be done? No one must be offended, while at the same time it is necessary to act on the basis of the special features of particular formations' state and legal status.

A way out was found by means of reasonable compromise. Republics showed respect for autonomous formations, krays, and oblasts and vice versa. No one disputed everyone's right to participate in federative relations. No one now disputes everyone's equal socioeconomic rights. The republics retained their right to have state attributes and possess a state's symbols.

The Federation Treaty (Treaty on the Demarcation of Powers Between Federal Organs of State Power and Organs of Power of Republics, Krays, Oblasts, and Autonomous Formations) was prepared on these principles.

This question was taken to the Third (Extraordinary) Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies. A resolution was adopted on R.I. Khasbulatov's report on the fundamental principles of the RSFSR national-state system (on the Federation Treaty). The draft treaty was taken as a base and the RSFSR Supreme Soviet instructed to finalize the draft treaty and prepare it for signing in conjunction with republics, krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations.

The RSFSR Supreme Soviet adopted a Resolution on the Procedure for Finalizing the Draft Treaty 16 May 1991, after considering the question of the Federation Treaty. The treaty was to be ready for signing in June 1991. The working group carried out the RSFSR Supreme Soviet's instructions and the treaty was ratified [zavizirovat] by experts 11 July.

Regrettably, there was no further progress on this document—at that time certain changes were occurring in the country. We returned to it after the draft Russian Constitution was published in connection with the discussion of Section IV—on the federative system.

A joint ordinance of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and the RSFSR president of 6 December 1991 set up a working group to formulate proposals on the Russian federative system. It comprised representatives of the Constitutional Commission (O.G. Rumyantsev and others), the president's administration (S.M. Shakhray and others), the Supreme Soviet (Yu.F. Yarov, G.S. Zhukhov, and others), R.G. Abdulatipov, leader of the former Federation Treaty working group, and L.F. Boltenkov, leader of the group of experts.

I will not describe how the process of preparing proposals on the Russian federative system developed. Eventually historians will write books and state specialists will produce theses on this. I will point out that the Federation Treaty was finally drafted with the participation of representatives of republics, krays, oblasts, the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, and autonomous formations. It was submitted for initialing after it had been approved by the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and the Russian Federation president.

This event also took 10 days. The republics were the first to sign the Federation Treaty, followed by the krays, oblasts, and cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, and then the autonomous formations. There is no hidden meaning behind this sequence of events. The republics displayed the most insistence regarding the country's need for the Federation Treaty. Therefore the document was prepared for them first. Literally a few days later documents were prepared for the other participants in federative relations.

The Federation Treaty was signed 31 March 1991—a now historic day—in the Kremlin by 18 (out of the 20) republics within the Russian Federation, all the krays and oblasts, the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, all autonomous oblasts, and federal organs of state power in the person of Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov and President Yeltsin.

Although the Treaty has had binding force for its signatories since the day that it was signed, only the supreme organ of state power—the Congress of People's Deputies—could enhance its significance within the country and give it a constitutional character. The Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies was such a congress.

Speaking at the Congress 10 April 1992, the Russian president said the following about the Federation Treaty: "Certainly, it had a very agonizing birth...But finally we nonetheless have the optimum, very interesting proposal—the Federation Treaty in three aspects...I think that the signing of the Federation Treaty should bring an end to all talk in the country, in Russia, and the world to the effect that the breakup which befell the Soviet Union also lies in store for Russia. Especially since the Treaty says outright that it must be an integral part of the new Russian Federation Constitution in a separate bloc. I think that the Treaty virtually guarantees Russia against collapse.

"Russia was, is, and will be whole, indivisible, and strong, I am convinced of that!"

After this uplifting speech by the president, Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov put to the vote the question of ratifying the Federation Treaty. It was voted in by 848 votes to 10, with 40 abstentions. Thus, the Congress enshrined the content of the Federation Treaty.

However, as has happened before at our congresses, deputies revert to decisions already adopted, and may even revise their own decision. Incidentally, I do not see anything terribly wrong in that. First, this is a sign of real democracy in the work of the country's supreme forum, second, it is evidence of an intense quest for the best possible ways of resolving a particular problem.

That also happened to certain provisions of the Federation Treaty. After approving the Treaty, deputies seem to have perceived the name of the state set out in it: "Russian Federation." However, when approaching this question specially, they ostensibly forgot about the treaty and its constitutionality, and began heated and, I would say, dramatic arguments about the state's name. Their anguish over the future of the state manifested itself in their attitude to its name. The Congress' decision to call the state "Russia", adopted amid tumultuous applause, stirred up national feelings among a number of representatives of the republics within the Russian Federation. Evidently, this had some ancient ring for them.

However attracted any Russian may be by the name "Russia," one had to realize that the republics lose their own persona if the state of which they are a part takes this name. I think with gratitude of the speeches delivered by Russians at the Congress defending the republics' right to be part of a state called "the Russian Federation." I am grateful for the statements made by representatives of a non-Russian nationality who proposed leaving the word "Russia" in the name of the state alongside the words "Russian Federation."

Here is a snatch of two statements.

"I am a Russian deputy," Anikiyev said, "but I have spent my whole life working with national republics and I am working with them today. I ask you to support the proposal today and add two words to the word 'Russia'—'Russian Federation'—in order to preserve our Fatherland, Russia."

"'Russia' is a splendid name," Soviet of Nationalities Chairman Abdulatipov said, "but Tatarstan, Ossetia, Dagestan, and Karelia have an equally splendid ring to them. How can we unite all this into a single whole? A federation... is to be formed on the basis of the Russian Federation, Russia...Another name is added—'Russia.'"

Wisdom and common sense prevailed. The word "Russia" was added to the name of the state enshrined in the Federation Treaty.

In constituting the new name of the state—"Russian Federation-Russia"—the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies opened the way for building in the field of state development. This is particularly valuable in conjunction with the Federation Treaty, which is continuing to lead an autonomous life and is open for subscription.

Resolution on Protecting Organs of Power Issued

PM2804152992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 92 First Edition p 2

[Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies resolution No. 2710-1: "On the Protection of Constitutional Organs of Power"]

[Text] The Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies, considering unconstitutional actions aimed at discrediting lawfully elected Russian Federation organs of state power to be impermissible, resolves that:

1. The legal foundations enshrined in the Russian Federation Constitution (Basic Law), the Declaration on the Russian Federation's State Sovereignty, and Russian Federation acts of legislation for the organization and activity of Russian Federation organs of state power shall be considered unshakable. Changes or amendments to the system of Russian Federation state organs, the creation of new organs of power, or the suspension or winding up of their activity other than as laid down by the Russian Federation Constitution and Russian Federation laws shall not be permitted.

2. Actions by officials, organizations, or citizens aimed at impeding the legitimate activity of organs of state power, their dissolution and replacement, or the formation of parallel structures of state power, or at discrediting organs of state power by disseminating deliberately false information shall be subject to legal proceedings.

3. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet shall, within the space of two months, adopt a law on the protection of constitutional organs of state power, stipulating administrative and—in aggravating circumstances—criminal proceedings for the cases mentioned above.

4. The Russian Federation president, the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, the courts, Prosecutor's Office organs, and other law enforcement organs shall ensure unswerving observance of constitutional legality by all Russian Federation state organs, officials, organizations, and citizens.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

Moscow, the Kremlin. 21 April 1992

No. 2710-1

Supreme Soviet

Resolution on Law on Conversion Adopted

PM2804155892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Apr 92 p 6

["Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Resolution on the Procedure for Bringing Into Force the Russian Federation Law 'On Conversion of the Defense Industry in the Russian Federation,'" No. 2552-1, signed by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman R.I. Khasbulatov and dated 20 March 1992]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. That the Russian Federation Law "On Conversion of the Defense Industry in the Russian Federation" be brought into force from the moment of its publication, with the exception of Article 2 Point 3 and Article 8 Point 4.

2. Article 2 Point 3 of the Russian Federation Law "On Conversion of the Defense Industry in the Russian Federation" is to come into force from 1 April 1992, and Article 8 Point 4 of the said law is to come into force from 1 January 1993.

3. In 1992 subsidies to enterprises undergoing conversion are to take place within the limits of resources allocated for these purposes from the Russian Federation republic budget. The procedure and criteria for distributing the said resources are determined by the Russian Federation Government.

4. The formation of a special-purpose fund to promote conversion under the Russian Federation Ministry of Industry in 1992 is to take place in accordance with the Russian Federation Government Resolution "On the Draft Budget System of the Russian Federation for the First Quarter of 1992."

5. The Russian Federation Government:

by 31 March 1992, is to submit for examination by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet the basic principles of the Russian Federation military doctrine and a list of avenues of activity in the military-industrial complex that are not subject to reduction;

in the second quarter of 1992, is to submit for approval by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet priority state conversion programs;

annually, is to present to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet a report on progress in fulfilling state conversion programs;

by 1 July 1992, is to draw up and coordinate with the governments of the CIS member states a procedure for decisionmaking on the joint production of arms and military equipment and on the conversion of the defense industry;

is to draw up and submit to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security Questions in the second quarter of 1992 a draft Russian Federation Law "On State Secrets";

is to draw up and submit to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee on Industry and Power Engineering in the third quarter of 1992 a draft Russian Federation Law "On the Defense Program, the Defense Order, and the Status of Defense Enterprises";

by 1 July 1992, is to ensure that amendments are made to contracts with leaders of enterprises undergoing conversion in accordance with Article 5 of the Russian Federation Law "On Conversion of the Defense Industry in the Russian Federation."

6. It is stipulated that the concessions granted to members of labor collectives on privatization in accordance with Russian Federation legislation and the State Privatization Program are extended to unemployed workers dismissed from enterprises as a result of conversion after 1 January 1990.

The Russian Federation Government is to make provision for a mechanism for revising records of reasons for dismissal in the labor records of workers dismissed from enterprises in the military-industrial complex after 1 January 1990 in accordance with Article 7 Point 5 of the Russian Federation Law "On Conversion of the Defense Industry in the Russian Federation."

[Signed] Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman

R.I. Khasbulatov Moscow, House of Soviets of Russia, 20 March 1992 No. 2552-1

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Visits Severodvinsk; Comments on Reform

LD2804180192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Video report by correspondent V. Loyter; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Leonid Kravchuk has stated that Ukraine's nuclear-free status will depend on guarantees of its security. These could have been expected from Russia, but it constantly makes territorial claims against us, Kravchuk said. Boris Yeltsin has not reacted to this statement. This morning, he left by air for Arkhangelsk. The president intends to find out how people are reacting to the policy of reforms, for he believes that the Congress did not provide a true reflection of the people's mood.

[Loyter] Arkhangelsk is one of the few towns in Russia where from the aircraft steps, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin can see for himself how the military-industrial complex dominates the north's economy. The Russian Federation president's aircraft halted next to modern MiG's. Straight from the airport, the president set off for Severodvinsk, where he planned to have a meeting with the collective of the Northern Machine Building Enterprise. As the motorcade proceeded, Boris Nikolayevich altered the planned route and decided to meet the people of Severodvinsk. He stopped in the center of the town. [video shows Yeltsin inside a store, then addressing crowd outside]

[Begin Yeltsin recording] We will make a few corrections to the reform. We will make it just a little bit easier. We have been very severe. We could not have done otherwise in the initial period. Now we will ease up a bit on a few matters, on a few matters. At present, these corrections are being prepared, and I think that in a week or 10 days time we will make public what the changes will be. [end recording]

[Loyter] The town's enterprises have unique production equipment that have no equivalent anywhere in the world.

But today the majority of the workshops are idle because of the considerable reduction in defense allocations. It was to resolve the fate of the leading section of the military industrial complex that Russian Federation President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin visited Severodvinsk.

[Announcer] The president has still to pay an official visit to Washington and to attend a G-7 meeting in Munich. On this subject, Yeltsin said today that Russia will not submit to dictates by the IMF. He said that Russia will not throw itself into the whirlpool and will not take up all the $24 billion at once. We will take the foreign currency for specific programs, including 6 billion [currency unspecified] to stabilize the ruble.

Attends Launch of 'Resurs F-2'

LD2904095792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0925 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow, 29 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The spacecraft "Resurs F-2," intended for economic purposes, was launched today from the Plesetsk launching site in Arkhangelsk Oblast. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed at the space units command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces that Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, was present at the launch.

Addresses Unemployment Issue

LD2704223592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2011 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Commentary by M. Maksimovskaya]

[Text] Economic problems were discussed at the meeting between Russia's President Yeltsin and the inhabitants of Severodvinsk. He arrived there today.

Yeltsin could not resist the temptation to name the time when the process of stabilization would start. He said a reduction in the level of prices without a reduction in the level of wages will start at the end of this year. A not inconsiderable role in this must be Russia's joining the International Monetary Fund. However, Yeltsin stated that he will not permit the Fund to dictate economic policy.

As some observers note, this statement is intended not for the West but rather for the Russians themselves, for they fear that new difficulties lie ahead of them.

In his conversation with the inhabitants of Severodvinsk, the president discussed the difficulties which already exist. One of the country's largest plants building atomic submarines is located in Severodvinsk. With the reduction in military orders, the problem of unemployment is becoming acute. The president stated that the Severodvinsk base is a national asset of the whole of Russia. He gave the townsfolk an assurance that even if the building of submarines is stopped at other yards it will continue at Severodvinsk.

At the same time, speaking of military problems, Boris Yeltsin stated that the moratorium on nuclear tests is being maintained in our country. He also reported that at talks with other nuclear powers Russia intends to try get such tests banned completely, or at least to get their number reduced from 17, as was planned, to two explosions a year. [video shows crowd in square, some with placards, one of which says "Guskov is an obstacle to reforms"; brief glimpse of Yeltsin addressing crowd; warship in port; outside of submarine; inside of submarine]

Comments on Nuclear Ban

LD2804155992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1505 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Report by special ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalyev]

[Text] Severodvinsk (Arkhangelsk Oblast), 28 Apr—Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, declared today during a meeting with the people of Severodvinsk, a satellite town near Arkhangelsk, that the Severodvinsk base was "the national wealth of all Russia and not only we will not allow it to die, but we will also strengthen it." Some of the country's largest enterprises that build nuclear submarines are situated here, on the shores of the White Sea. Yeltsin noted that even if other enterprises were to stop producing submarines, their production would continue in Severodvinsk.

Speaking at a request from the population about the problem of the testing ground on Novaya Zemlya, the president, who is presently on a tour of a number of Russian towns, declared that the moratorium on nuclear tests remained in force. For the first time, he said, France is supporting us by declaring its own moratorium on nuclear tests. The president underlined that now Russia and France could exert strong pressure on the United States to end tests. At the same time, he added that Russia could not allow its national safety to be undermined. According to Yeltsin, during his official visit to Washington in June of this year "talks will be held on either a complete ban on nuclear tests," that Russia is pressing for, "or on minimum level and quantity for them, for example two explosions per year, rather than 17, as had been planned."

Speaking about the problem of obtaining land holdings for private farmers, the president noted that the recent Congress of People's Deputies had not, for the time being, unfortunately, resolved the question of the sale and purchase of land, but he voiced the hope that the problem would ultimately be solved.

Touching on the temporary difficulties of the transition to the market, including the problem of the increase in prices, Yeltsin declared that "by the end of the present year, the start of the stabilization process will be under way, and a lowering of the level of prices without any reduction in the level of wages will begin later."

While visiting one of the town's shops, Yeltsin announced that the government was now studying the possibility of abolishing the state monopoly on wine and vodka products, established back in the twenties. He said that what was being contemplated was issuing licences for the production of wine and vodka, with the prices of these wares being deregulated.

Commission for Conversion Meets in Novosibirsk

OW2904111292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eighty per cent of the defence enterprises put out consumer goods and only 20 per cent produce military output, chief of the Russian governmental commission for conversion Yuriy Tychkov announced at the closing meeting with the directors of the arms enterprises of the Novosibirsk region. On April 28 this commission ended its work in Novosibirsk. Yuriy Tychkov believes that it is impossible to close down arms enterprises because they have the most powerful industrial potential in Russia.

Yuriy Tychkov also said that on May 25 Russian Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar will hold a working meeting in Moscow with the leaders of the Russian arms enterprises to discuss various aspects of conversion.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Discusses Nuclear Weapons, Security

LD2804193192 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1357 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko]

[Text] Kiev, 28 Apr (UKRINFORM)—On the eve of his official visit to the United States, Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk today met with foreign correspondents accredited in Kiev. Considerable attention was paid at the news conference to the problems of nuclear weapons.

The president rejected the allegations of some foreign journalists that Ukraine resumed the transfer of nuclear tactical weapons under pressure from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. This information, circulated by Ostankino television, is inaccurate, to put it mildly, Leonid Kravchuk noted. He stressed that the Moscow mass media, not always correctly interpreting decisions of the Ukraine leadership, is misinforming the world community and the foreign press.

When we suspended the transfer of these weapons, we were guided by the need to establish control. Ukraine cannot allow the nuclear weapons being transferred from its territory to be used for improper purposes. Everyone understands that to move nuclear arsenals from one territory to another does not reduce their number. Now, thanks to Ukraine's position, President Boris Yeltsin and I have signed an appropriate agreement on control, and the transfer of nuclear weapons has been resumed.

Leonid Kravchuk continued: I recently had two telephone conversations with Mr. Baker. We have no differences. We discussed all the problems and reached agreement.

The Ukraine president once again confirmed his intention to have control over those nuclear resources which are temporarily stationed on Ukraine's territory. Leonid Kravchuk stressed: If we were to hold any other view, we would have to allow occupation troops and occupation nuclear forces, controlled by another state, to be stationed on Ukraine's territory. In such a case, who would be responsible if, for example, a rocket were launched from our territory?

We created the nuclear weapons together, and Ukraine contributed a lot to that process. If we created them together and divided them together, if we are legal successors together and are responsible together for the decisions that the USSR took in its time, it means we have to control them together. This demand is natural and lawful. Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Byelarus must have control over these nuclear weapons.

On the issue of ratifying and signing the START treaty, Leonid Kravchuk announced: It has been decided that all of the four nuclear states of the former Soviet Union and the United States will be parties to that treaty. In the immediate future, the foreign ministers of Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine, and the U.S. secretary of state will meet and sign the protocol. That protocol and the treaty will be ratified. As for the 46 rockets that are not included in the draft of the START treaty, there will have to be an additional agreement on that.

As it aspires to become a nuclear-free state, Ukraine is weakening its military capacity, Leonid Kravchuk stressed. Therefore, a security problem arises. It is especially acute now, because our neighbors have started making territorial claims on Ukraine. We will put this question to the world community in order to have guarantees of security.

Speaking on the results of his visit to Iran, the president announced that seven important documents concerning cooperation between Ukraine and the Islamic Republic were signed. They are specific in nature and are peaceful in purpose.

Preparations for a visit to the United States are now taking place. A trade agreement and other documents will be signed there. According to Leonid Kravchuk, that visit should change the character of Ukrainian-U.S. relations.

The Ukraine president also answered questions on the future of the CIS, the future of the Black Sea Fleet, the problems of Crimea, and other matters.

Upcoming Black Sea Fleet Talks Previewed

Foreign Ministry Claims Viewed

LD2804165592 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1357 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zayka]

[Text] Kiev, 28 Apr—Ukraine's position at the negotiations beginning in Odessa on 29 April between state delegations of Ukraine and Russia on the issue of the division of the Black Sea Fleet will be built on the right of every state to inherit the property located on its territory. As legal bases, it also will rely on the 16 November 1990 treaty between Ukraine and Russia, the agreement of heads of independent states on strategic forces, the protocol of the working meeting of heads of state of the CIS on naval symbols, and the agreement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on military-political matters. A UKRINFORM correspondent was told this on the eve of the negotiations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

It also was stressed that these documents envisage in particular that the Navy of the former USSR is part of the strategic forces, with the exception of part of the forces of the Black Sea Fleet, which will form part of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The Black Sea Fleet amounts to a little under 10 percent of the entire composition of the Navy, which is considerably less than the expenses of

Ukraine on its construction and maintenance. At the same time, recognizing the right of every state in whose ports Black Sea Fleet ships are registered to a part of those forces, Ukraine favors acquiring those ships which are registered at its ports.

Durdinets Cited on Aims

LD2804221392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Video report by correspondent V. Martynov, including recorded remarks by Vasiliy Durdinets, Ukrainian Supreme Soviet deputy chairman; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Talks on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet begin in Kiev [as heard] tomorrow. Leonid Kravchuk has appealed to all politicians, public figures, and journalists to refrain during the talks from any action that might complicate the situation.

[Begin Durdinets recording] The Ukrainian state delegation has come to Odessa with the sincere desire to sit down at the negotiating table with the Russian state delegation to discuss issues connected with the Black Sea Fleet honestly and justly, on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, the documents of the CIS, the documents signed between Ukraine and Russia in recent years, and our national legislation.

[Unidentified reporter] What will be the main problems in your path?

[Durdinets] I should like to say that we are acting primarily on the basis that the Black Sea Fleet is not just ships, bases, and arsenals, but, first and foremost, people: the personnel, their families, and the population of the cities and settlements on whose territory the units of the Black Sea Fleet are stationed. These people should be confident that we, at this state level, are capable of finding sensible, acceptable solutions to this complicated issue. [end recording]

[Martynov] Under the terms of an accord that has been reached, talks between Russia and Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet are due to begin in Odessa tomorrow. The Ukrainian delegation, led by Vasiliy Durdinets, Ukrainian Supreme Soviet deputy chairman, has already arrived in Odessa. The Russian Federation's delegation has yet to arrive there. It seems that the success of the talks will depend both on the goodwill of each side, but in particular, on the level of the Russian delegation.

Durdinets: 'Just' Solution Sought

LD2804220592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Talks on the problem of the Black Sea Fleet will resume tomorrow. To all appearances, they will begin without the heads of the interested states. Our correspondents in Odessa have the details.

[Begin recording] [V.V. Durdinets, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, identified by caption] We have come to Odessa with the sincere desire to find—and I stress this once again—a just, honest, and sensible solution to this issue. [end recording]

[Correspondent A. Gerasimov] Each side has its own idea of justice in this argument. Russia believes that the Black Sea Fleet must join the CIS strategic forces and that Ukraine should get only an insignificant portion of the Sevastopol squadron to create a navy of its own, which, incidentally, already has a commander.

From Kiev's point of view, however, such a position shows a total disregard for the near term. After all, in 1994, after having sent away its last nuclear warheads, Ukraine is likely to become a neutral country, as it has promised. Therefore, any talk about active participation in the Commonwealth's strategic forces becomes simply senseless.

It appears that this is the reason that, some days before the Odessa meeting, Ukraine was maintaining that, considering the geographical position of Sevastopol—the main Black Sea military base—the entire fleet should belong to Ukraine.

[Begin Durdinets recording] I believe that the statements which have been made at the leadership level and by our president are still in force for the time being. [end recording]

[Gerasimov] According to our information, problems with the talks have emerged even before they have started. Only the Ukrainian delegation arrived in Odessa today. It is still not known here who will arrive from Moscow and when. Nevertheless, the numerous observers who have gathered on the Black Sea coast hope that the talks will start tomorrow anyway.

Morozov Cables CIS on Officers' Transfer

LD2804165892 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1357 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zayka]

[Text] Kiev, 28 Apr—A telegram from Colonel General Konstantin Morozov to Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, contains a request to send operational groups of Ukrainian Ministry of Defense officers to the Main Administration of Personnel of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, personnel administrations of the branches of the Armed Forces, military districts, groups of troops, and military training establishments to obtain information about officers who are Ukrainians or of Ukrainian origin and to coordinate issues related to the transfer of these officers to the homeland. The telegram was drawn up in accordance

with the Ukrainian president's decree on transferring this category of officers for further service in the Armed Forces of the Republic.

The telegram also expresses the request, the press service of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense reports, to reach agreement on the posting of officers serving in Ukraine who have expressed the wish to transfer to other states in the Commonwealth. It is stressed that at a time when many of them have apartments in various regions with their families also living there, the question of their transfer is being unjustifiably delayed.

National Affairs

Complaints Leveled Against Carpathian Commander

PM2804132992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 3

[Report by Colonel V. Bogdanovskiy: "President's Representative to Carpathian Military District Commander: You Must Change Cadres Policy or Else..."]

[Text] Lvov—A meeting of representatives of the union of officers of Ukraine's 10 oblasts was held in Lvov. It stated that many problems had been discovered in the building of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, primarily in the implementation of cadres policy. In the opinion of the leaders of the Ukrainian officers' union, many officers and generals should be replaced and those who will be able "to work more effectively to create the Ukrainian Armed Forces" should be appointed in their place.

These complaints did not bypass Lieutenant General V. Stepanov, the district's new commander. S. Davymchuka, the Ukrainian president's representative for Lvov Oblast, reported that he had repeatedly assumed responsibility and had gone to the Ukrainian president and defense minister to "prevent the appointment of individual officers and generals of the district to leading posts." The conclusion is that unless the Carpathian Military District commander changes his practice in resolving cadres questions, Davymchuka will raise the question of his remaining in his post.

Deputy, Adviser Threaten To Arrest Kasatonov

PM2804154792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 2

["Rejoinder" by correspondents L. Ovchinnikova and A. Ryabushev: "Are Handcuffs an Argument in a Dispute?"]

[Text] Sevastopol—We have been to Sevastopol and we can vouch for the fact that the name of Admiral I.V. Kasatonov is spoken here with special reverence. At all times, and particularly now, the Navy needs a firm hand. But the commander has been taught some very significant "lessons in democracy" of late.

Addressing a public meeting at the Lvov theater recently, Deputy Stepan Khmara said that, if the order comes, there are some guys who can be relied on to bring Adm. Kasatonov in handcuffs to Kiev. Deputy Khmara soon went to Sevastopol himself, accompanied by "riflemen," but he was heckled and given the bum's rush.

Speaking a few days ago on the "Itogi" television program, Colonel V.I. Lazorkin, senior adviser to the Ukrainian defense minister, wearing a polite smile, also took the liberty of talking about arresting Adm. I.V. Kasatonov...

What about people in Sevastopol? To say that the seamen are angered by these statements is a gross understatement. Thousands of seamen and inhabitants of the city agree with I.V. Kasatonov. So everyone takes the threats personally. If you can threaten an admiral, for goodness' sake...

It is high time we considered what is going on. An admiral is publicly threatened with arrest for being loyal to the oath he once took. For carrying out orders.

We are not talking just about officers' honor. Why will none of the officials using handcuffs as an argument see that these threats are sparks that might detonate a powder keg?

Presidential, Cabinet of Ministers Appointed

AU2804125992 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No 15, Apr 92 p 2

[Text] Ukrainian President L.M. Kravchuk has appointed Borys Borysovych Kozhyn, rear admiral, as commander of Ukraine's Naval Forces.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has appointed Drobyazok, Volodymyr Stepanovych, as chairman of the State Agency for Authors' and Related Rights subordinate to the Cabinet of Ministers.

* * *

Sobolyev, Borys Volodymyrovych, has been appointed as Ukraine's plenipotentiary representative in the commission in charge of holding negotiations and preparing proposals for resolving questions of Succession with regard to treaties, state property, state archives, debts, and assets of the former USSR.

The same resolution approves the composition of the group of experts for questions of succession regarding treaties, state property, state archives, debts, and assets of the former USSR.

* * *

Artemenko, Oleksandr Mykolayovych, has been appointed as Ukraine's first deputy minister of transport and relieved of duties as vice president of the Ukrainian State Corporation of Automobile Transport.

* * *

Rozenko, Vitaliy Ivanovych, has been relieved of duties as Ukraine's deputy minister of internal affairs—chief of the Kiev Administration of Internal Affairs, due to his transfer to another job.

* * *

Skomarovskyy, Vadym Petrovych, has been relieved of duties as first deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Press in connection with his transfer to another job.

* * *

Zaychuk, Valentyn Oleksandrovych; Shepotko, Viktor Panteliyovych; Moroz, Oleksiy Hryhorovych; Kozoriz, Vasyl Vasylyovych; and Hondyul, Valeriy Petrovych, have been appointed as Ukraine's deputy ministers of education.

Resolution Specifies Subordination of Committees

AU2804125792 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No 16, Apr 92 p 6

["Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 182 on State Committees and Other Organs od State Executive Power That Are Subordinate to Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers; issued in Kiev on 8 April"]

[Text] In the course of implementing the Ukrainian Presidential Decree of 25 February 1992 "On Changes in the System of Central Organs of Ukraine's State Executive Power," the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine resolves as follows:

1. To transform:

The Committee for Scientific and Technological Progress at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine into Ukraine's State Committee for Questions of Science and Technology;

Ukraine's State Committee for Standardization, Metrology, and Quality of Products into Ukraine's State Committee for Standardization, Metrology, and Certification;

Ukraine's State Committee for Foodstuffs and Processing Industry into Ukraine's State Committee for Foodstuffs Industry.

2. To abolish the State Council for Questions of the Economic Policy, the Council for Questions of State Scientific and Technological Policy, Ukraine's State Committee for Woodworking Industry, and Ukraine's Monetary Fund.

3. To determine that the following bodies are subordinate to Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers:

state committees:
Ukraine's State Committee for Water Resources,
Ukraine's State Committee for Coal Industry,
Ukraine's State Committee for Geology and Exploitation of the Earth's Interior,
Ukraine's State Committee for Hydrometeorology,
Ukraine's State Committee for Housing and Communal Services,
Ukraine's State Committee for Land Resources,
Ukraine's State Committee for Material Reserves.
Ukraine's State Customs Committee,
Ukraine's State Committee for Supervision Over Safety of Work in Industry and Mining,
Ukraine's State Committee for the Press,
Ukraine's State Committee for Fisheries and Fishing Industry,
Ukraine's State Committee for the Protection of State Border,
Ukraine's State Committee for Promoting Small Enterprises and Entrepreneurship,
Ukraine's State Committee for Bread Products,
Ukraine's State Committee for Nuclear and Radiation Safety;

other organs of state executive power:
the Committee for Nationalities Affairs,
the Committee for Questions of Social Protection of Servicemen,
the Committee for Ukraine's State Prizes in the Sphere of Science and Technology,
the Committee for State Prizes imeni T. Shevchenko,
Ukraine's State Supervision Over Price Control,
Ukraine's State Supervision Over the Protection of Consumers' Rights,
the State Archival Administration,
the State Administration for Geodesy, Cartography, and Land- Survey,
the Main Administration for the Protection of State Secrets in the Press and Other Mass Media,
Ukraine's National Space Agency,
Ukraine's State Agency for Authors' and Related Rights,
Ukraine's Higher Examination Commission,
the Council for Questions of Religions,
the State Fund of Ukraine's Cinematography.

4. To determine that Ukraine's Ministry of Transport coordinates the activity of Ukraine's State Administration for Railroad Transport, Ukraine's State Administration for Sea Transport, Ukraine's State Administration of Aviation Transport, enterprises and organizations of the "Ukravtotrans" Corporation, "Ukrrichflot" Association; Ukraine's Ministry of Investments and Construction coordinates the activity of entreprises and organizations of the construction corporations "Ukrbud," "Ukrmontazhspetsbud," "Ukrabudmaterialy," concerns "Ukrshlyakhbud," "Ukrtsement," "Ukrtransbud," "Ukrmetrotunelbud"; Ukraine's Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs coordinates the activity of the concern "Ukragrotekhservis."

5. To determine that the structure of the central apparatuses of ministries, state committees, and other central organs of state executive power must be approved by

Ukraine's vice prime ministers within the limits of the quantity of personnel established by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

6. To consider the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Cabinet of Ministers resolution No. 12 of 24 May 1991 "On the Procedure for Implementing the Ukrainian SSR Law 'On the List of Ministries and Other Central Organs of State Administration of the Ukrainian SSR'" as no longer valid, with the exception of paragraphs 3, 8, and 11.

Resolution Amends Regulated Consumer Prices

AU2804112792 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No 16, Apr 92 p 2

["Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 193 of 15 April 1992 'On Introducing Changes Into the System of Regulated Prices and Rates'"]

[Text] In connection with the increase of prices of energy resources and in order to stabilize state budget expenditures, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers resolves as follows:

1. To introduce changes into the ceiling for raising the prices of products, goods, and the rates for services that were stipulated by Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 376 of 27 December 1991 "On the System of Prices in the National Economy and on the Consumer Market of Ukraine," in accordance with the supplement.

2. To institute the order to determine the level of apartment rents and payment for heating in houses of the state and civil housing fund on the basis of the floor area of the apartment.

To set rents, as well as payment for gas, heating, water supply, and sewerage at 50 percent of the current rate for those families whose total average income per family member was up to 62 percent of the minimum wages raised in accordance with the consumer prices index.

3. Ukraine's State Committee for Housing and Communal Services,

jointly with Ukraine's Ministry of Justice, must prepare, by 25 April 1992, proposals for introducing changes into the current legislation in connection with the transition to determining the rent and payment for heating on the basis of the floor area of the apartment;

to draw up, by 30 April 1992, the procedure for setting the rent and payment for heating for residents of communal apartments.

4. To authorize the State Railroad Transport Administration of Ukraine to establish rates for transporting cargo by rail within Ukraine and for other services on the basis of the economically justified prime cost and the limiting level [granichnyy riven] of profitability amounting to 35 percent of the prime cost.

Subsequent changes in rates must be implemented after Ukraine's State Railroad Transport Administration submits a declaration to Ukraine's Ministry of the Economy, not later than two months prior to introducing new rates and with the ministry's consent.

5. This resolution will go into effect on 16 April 1992 and, in the case of some rates for public services provided by the city transportation system (buses, trams, trolley-buses, and underground railroad), as well as taxi cabs and communications—on 27 April 1992.

* * *

The supplement to the Cabinet of Ministers resolution includes changes of the ceiling for raising the prices of products and goods and rates for services.

These are the new rates for public services: Electricity (1 kilowatt/per year)—25 kopecks for rural populated areas, 50 kopecks for cities, and 40 kopecks for town buildings equipped with electric stoves and electrical heating devices. The following limiting coefficients for raising prices have been established: for water supply and sewerage—2; for heating—3; apartment rents—35 kopecks per square meter floor area; transportation of passengers and baggage in commuter electric trains—1.5; sea transport—3; in the city transportation system, the maximum price is 50 kopecks per trip, and communications services—1.8 on average.

Rate of Production Decline Slows

LD2504182192 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1311 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Kiev, 22 Apr (UKRINFORM-TASS)—Results on the performance of the Ukrainian economy for the first quarter of 1992 have been concluded, according to a report from the press service of the Ukrainian prime minister. Reasons for the difficult economic situation have been subject to serious analysis. The national income compared with the first quarter of last year has declined by 20 percent and the volume of industrial production by 15.3 percent. The decline in production has affected the majority of the most important types of production. However, the report notes that in the last few months the rate of the decline in production has slowed down (in March by only 9.2 percent against 19.7 percent in January) which is evidence of the planned stabilization.

Agriculture Ministry To 'Overhaul' Staff

LD2504091392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1241 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Kiev—The term for dismissal applications established by Ukraine's Agriculture Ministry for its staff expires on May 1. This term has been established by Ukraine's Agriculture Minister Vasily Tkachuk. The minister intends to overhaul the staff to reportedly get

rid of the dead weight, by which he means the old cadre of the party nomenclature who are unable and reluctant to change their work style in the new economic conditions. This, according to some reports, has caused sentiments close to panic among the ministry's 690-strong staff.

According to reports received at the Agriculture Ministry, the April 23 situation shows the sowing campaign of early grain crops completed. This spring about 490,000 hectares of winter crops had to be resown. The overall of over 6.5 million hectares have been sown with spring crops,which makes about 40 per cent of the sowing area forecast for this year. According to Agriculture Ministry experts, the sowing campaign has been restricted by a shortage of agricultural equipment, of which a considerable amount has to stay idle due to a lack of spare parts.

New Prices for Visas Drawn at Border

LD2604220992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1550 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 22 Apr—A provisional statute on the procedure of levying charges for drawing up visas at control points on Ukraine's state border has been put into operation. When foreign citizens and stateless persons are handed an entry-exit visa they are obliged to pay $50 or an equivalent amount in another freely convertible currency, and $15 when drawing up a transit visa. The cost of a visa for groups of foreign citizens arriving in Ukraine for tourism and for establishing business ties with Ukraine's enterprises and organizations is $25. However, for those who are members of groups in transit across Ukrainian territory to CIS member states or other states the cost is $5 each.

In the event of a foreign citizen or a stateless person staying longer in Ukraine than the period specified by the visa, an entry-exit visa will be drawn up for him and a charge of $50 will be levied. In the event of a foreign citizen or a stateless person requesting an extension of the validity of an entry-exit visa, it will be drawn up for no longer than 30 days and a charge of $20 is to be levied.

Those exempt from the levying of charges for drawing up visas include diplomats and staff members of secretariats of international organizations of which Ukraine is a member, members of official government delegations, children up to the age of 16, and also persons who accompany humanitarian aid shipments for Ukraine and CIS member states, and that arriving for other humanitarian purposes.

No transit visas are made and no charges are levied on those foreign citizens who are returning from CIS member countries and crossing Ukraine's state border to depart from it.

The calculation of changing U.S. dollars into another currency will be carried out using the rate of exchange of the U.S. dollar and the currency in question against the ruble, which is fixed by Ukraine's National Bank at the time the visa is processed.

Miners Against Proposed Wage Ceiling

LD2604201992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1537 GMT 25 Apr 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kiev—The Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine (ITUMU) is against establishment of wage ceilings planned by the government. On April 24, the ITUMU addressed an appeal to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in response to the report made by Prime-Minister Vitold Fokin delivered during a parliamentary session on April 22 in connection with the government's decision to establish reasonably necessary balance between income and production levels. The appeal says: An attempt by the government of Ukraine headed by Vitold Fokin to make the Supreme Soviet adopt the so-called new mechanism to lead the country out of the crisis is nothing but restoration of the old communist regime with its management system and distribution of material resources and benefits. Should the Supreme Soviet support the bankrupted government of Fokin, the ITUMU will have to call upon miners to take various actions of protest.

Byelarus

Government Accused of Influencing Referendum

OW2304214192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Preparatory activities at Tsentrizbirkom (the Central Election Committee), which is to conduct an all-Byelarussian referendum to determine the level of support for the republic's parliament and government, were called "political provocation" by Levon Zdanevich, one of the opposition leaders in the Byelarussian Supreme Soviet. He said that five people named to the committee in a parliamentary decision April 22 were representatives of the old nomenclature (privileged government network of top positions). In an interview with an Interfax correspondent, chair of the referendum's initiative group Vladimir Antsulevich said that he believes "these people were selected to strengthen Tsentrizbirkom in order to follow the process of the general voting and in every way possible to hinder the people from freely expressing their will, resolving all controversial questions in favor of conservative forces." Mr. Antsulevich emphasized that all five new members of the committee were illegally selected by way of procedural violations. "Stanislav Shushkevich initiated of the illegal actions, circumventing the constitution and exceeding his authority by naming as committee head Aleksandr Abramovich, who had not gone through the necessary nomination procedures," stated Mr. Antsulevich.

Tsentrizbircom deputy director Ivan Likhach, in a conversation with an Interfax correspondent, expressed doubts that 3-5% of the lists of signatures were authentic.

Nevertheless, he said that even if those lists were annulled, the referendum would still take place. IF note: According to the Byelarussian constitution, at least 350,000 signatures must be collected from citizens of the republic in order for a referendum to be held. Tsentrizbirkom has received approximately 400,000 sheets of paper with signatures.

"I, personally, am in favor of the referendum", announced Ivan Stepura, advisor to the leader of the Byelarussian Parliament. He believes the most important result of the plebiscite will be who rises to power should the current Supreme Soviet receive a vote of no-confidence. The advisor did not rule out the possibility that "more extreme populists and demagogues" may appear on the scene.

International Observers Urged

OW2504155192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Members of the opposition Popular Front have urged international public organizations to send in their representatives to observe the referendum on confidence to the parliament and government.

The opposition leaders believe that the presence of international observers is necessary because the pro-communist functionaries are seeking ways of perpetuating their leadership.

Not long ago, the organizers of the referendum announced that as many as 430,000 people had signed the demand for holding such a referendum. According to the law, 350.000 signatures are needed to hold such an action. The date of the referendum will be fixed by the parliament.

The statement of the opposition says that the by-election to the parliament's central electoral commission which is expected to supervise the referendum, revealed that "all of the nominated candidates represented the leading nomenklatura". None of them was nominated by workers, farmers, researchers or representatives of public organizations, which is an instance of violation of the law.

The by-election took place in Minsk on April 22.

Conscripts Returning From Troubled Areas

OW2804174592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 136 Byelarussian conscripts have returned home from Caucasus after the resolution of the Supreme Soviet by which all conscripts on a tour of duty in the CIS' and Georgia's troubled areas are recalled back home came into effect.

In the next few days, all the other Byelarussian conscripts, over 1,600 of whom are still staying in the troubled areas, will return back home. The greatest number of Byelarussian soldiers are stationed in Azerbaijan (437 people), the least, in Armenia (22 people).

Government Dealing With Results of Chernobyl

OW2804181092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from issue No. 61 of the "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Last Sunday [26 Apr] Belarus marked the 6th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

IF's [INTERFAX] note: 70 percent of the radionuclides Chernobyl released were deposited in Byelarus. At present 2.5 mn. [million] people are living on the contaminated area, including 800,000 children. In the 1991 prices the Byelarus relief effort until 2005 cost 219 bn. [billion] rubles.

The disaster dealt a crushing blow at the republican economy and impaired the health of hundreds of thousands of Byelarus residents. When the republic was left to go it alone after the breakup of the Soviet Union, the Byelarus Council of Ministers has to slash state programs to send the released funds to minimize the aftermath of the tragedy.

Premier Vyacheslav Kebich created a new position in his government and appointed Ivan Kenik to be in charge of the Chernobyl relief effort. Kenik also appointed a special state committee. According to him, in 1991 the republic spent 500 mn. rubles more for the relief efforts that during all the preceding years. The vice-premier regards as one of the main directions in its activities the relocation of the residents of the affected areas. In the same year Byelarus built 19,000 apartments for the migrants.

IF's note: Ukraine built 2000 apartments for the purpose, and Russia, 1500.

The biggest test for the Byelarus government is the problem of the treatment of the contaminated people. Price liberalization and a complex socio-political situation in the number of regions of the former Soviet Union are virtually closed to the treatment of the Byelarus children, in Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and Azerbaijan. This forced the cabinet to take urgent efforts to improve the republican resorts. But governmental experts say that many years will be required until the republic has enough sanatoriums and rest houses.

The Byelarus budget predicts 10.78 bn. rubles in expenditures for relieve efforts this year. But in today's prices the implementation of the new law "On The Social Protection Of Citizens Who Suffered From The Catastrophe On Chernobyl Nuclear Station" alone will require 14 bn. rubles. The Byelarus government asked for help other Commonwealth countries. Russia promises 7 bn. rubles for the construction of housing for those to be relocated.

Vice-premier Kenin is currently in talks with Moscow on a 10 bn. ruble, 25-year credit for Byelarus to carry out a number of Chernobyl-related programs. The Moldova government promised 25 mn. rubles. A number of other Commonwealth states have also expressed readiness to offer Byelarus humanitarian aid: to supply ecologically clean foodstuffs and give accommodation at resort facilities.

World-Wide Cooperation Urged

LD2804190192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By BELTA correspondent Leonid Tratsevskiy for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, April 28 TASS—The solution of the Chernobyl problems calls for consolidating efforts not only of Byelarus, Russia and Ukraine, who suffered directly from the world's worst nuclear catastrophe, but also the entire world community which should be interested in the ecological health of the planet earth, said Vasil Yakovenko, president of the Byelarusian Union Chernobyl.

"We need purpose-built equipment and technologies to clear up all the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster," Yakovenko told journalists.

Miners Strike Ends; Tariff Agreement Signed

LD2904034392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1612 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By BELTA correspondent Valentina Menshikova for TASS]

[Text] Soligorsk (Byelarus), 24 Apr—The Byelaruskaliy production association labor collective met on 24 April and decided to end their strike, which started on 12 March and was accompanied by an 18-day hunger strike by miners and their families.

The decision was prompted by the signing of a 1992 tariff agreement between the government, the trade union of chemical and petrochemical industry workers, and the independent trade union of Byelarusian miners.

The republican Council of Ministers, the trade unions, and the Byelaruskaliy strike committee also signed a provisional agreement, the first point of which is that the association's director general will resign on 30 April. Moreover, the document stipulates that 15 percent of the hard currency made by the enterprise will go to paying the miners' wages. A total of 60 percent of the value of fixed assets, according to legislation, will be handed to the collective's ownership. As far as the miners' demands on setting up social insurance schemes on an individual basis go, the republican government has decided to create a single state social insurance fund before 1 November.

Supreme Soviet Adopts Environment Protection Law

LD2404125792 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0800 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The Byelarus parliament adopted a law on environmental protection in the first reading. For the first time, the document records the right of citizens to a healthy environment which is beneficial to life. For the first time in legislative practice, it is envisaged that individuals deliberately distorting and concealing information on the state of the natural environment will be made answerable in keeping with the republic's legislation.

Plant Built With German Aid Equipment Opens

LD2304225892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1217 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By BELTA correspondent Lidiya Peresypkina for TASS]

[Text] Lyakhovichi (Brest region) April 23 TASS—A plant to produce baby food became operational at the Lomonosov collective farm in Lyakhovichi region in Byelarus. The German foundation "Mothers and Fathers Against Nuclear Threat" delivered 500,000 marks' worth of equipment as part of humanitarian aid. A building, worth nearly a million rubles, was built by the farm. The plan will manufacture 500-600 tonnes of ecologically pure baby food from the farm's produce.

Moldova

Dniester Cease-Fire Talks Become 'Deadlocked'

LD2804112292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] We have received a government telegram by fax from Dniester. It says that despite the recommendations drawn up on 17 April in Chisinau by the ministers of foreign affairs of the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Romania, and Ukraine, the talks between Moldova and Dniester have become deadlocked.

A proposal from Dniester calling for the proclamation of a peace zone in the Dubossary area and the withdrawal of armed formations has been turned down. Therefore, the message notes, Moldova has effectively broken off further talks.

The Dniester Government has sent an appeal to the United Nations, the CSCE, the world community and the ministers of foreign affairs of Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania.

Cease-Fire Monitoring Group Begins Work

LD2904035292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1159 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By unidentified MOLDOVA-PRES correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, 25 Apr—A commission for monitoring the cease-fire imposed on all military actions began its work in Dorotskoye village, Dubossary rayon, today, republican First Deputy Prime Minister Konstantin Oborok told national radio.

The working group was created at the initiative of the republican government and members of a mixed commission which will implement the decisions of a recent meeting between the Moldovan, Russian, Romanian, and Ukrainian foreign ministers. Representatives of the Moldovan cabinet of ministers and of the government of the unrecognized Dniester Republic and leaders of the local rayons subjected to military actions are included in the group.

The commission will soon set up about 20 observation points along the length of the conflict zone, on both sides of the line of fire. Deputies of rayon soviets from both sides of the Dniester River will act as observers at these points, monitoring implemention of the established cease-fire regime and normalization of the communication and transport situation.

Plan for Settling Dniester Conflict Suggested

OW2704141292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1214 GMT 27 Apr 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature based on reports by diplomatic correspondents M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev, and others; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Political Council of the Movement for Democratic Reforms (MDR) has suggested its own plan for settling the conflict between Moldova and Dniester. The plan provides for considerably decentralizing power and forming in the republic 5 self-governed autonomous regions, including Gagauzia and Dniester.

The plan advanced by the MDR points to the need to stipulate guarantees for the proposed autonomous regions in Moldova's Constitution. According to MDR experts, Moldova's fundamental laws should state "the right to secede from Moldova if for some reason it loses its independence". This stipulation is connected with the fact that forces calling for unification with Romania become increasingly active in Moldova which gave rise to anxiety among Moldova's Russian-speaking population.

The MDR's Political Council has adopted a resolution, suggesting that the plan should be forwarded to the Presidents of Moldova, Ukraine, Russia and Romania, as well as to the persons taking part in the efforts to resolve the conflict in Dniester.

Dniester Ukrainians Against Reunification

LD2504113692 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Any assumptions about the possibility of Moldova's reunification with Romania are meeting with protest on the part of the Ukrainian population of the left bank area of the Dniester region. As a RIA correspondent was told by Bolshakov, leader of the Return organization: If the reunification takes place, the Ukrainians of the Dniester Republic will do everything possible so that their lands which were torn away seven years ago are returned within their historical borders. The self-defense forces have already dispatched their observers to the conflict area in order to give assistance to the Ukrainian population on the left bank area in case it is needed.

First Deputy Prime Minister Relieved of Duty

LD2904085792 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Another decree has been issued by the president of the Republic of Moldova. It concerns releasing Andrey Sangeli, Moldovan minister of agriculture and food, from his post as first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Moldova.

Snegur Issues Decree on Control of Firearms

LD2804195892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1931 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Chisinau, April 28 MOLDOVA-PRESS-TASS—President of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, issued a decree on "measures to control lawful carrying, possesion and acquirement of firearms and ammunition."

With the aim to improve the coordination activities of law enforcement bodies of the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Defence of the republic have been jointly entrusted with the task of forming a special batallion to keep control on posession of firearms, and also to carry out patrolling to elicit and detain, in a lawful manner, persons violating the rules of carrying, posession and acquirement of firearms.

In case of necessity, it has been recommended to set up special groups for carrying out operations against illegal posession of firearms and institute criminal proceedings against the guilty.

The Ministry of Defence has also been recommended to exclude access to firearms to civilians, the procurator general—to reinforce execution and obeyance of appropriate laws, and special extraordinary committees—to direct their efforts to a strict obeyance of the presidential decree on emergency situation over the entire territory of the republic.

Currency Accounts for Individuals Authorized

PM2704155792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 1

[Arkadiy Pasechnik report: "Hard Currency for Whom?"]

[Text] Chisinau—The Molodovan National Bank (the former Foreign Economic Bank) Hard Currency Operations Administration recently made a decision to open hard currency accounts for private customers. It is proposed that this measure will give banking structures the chance to control to at least some extent the influx into the republic of freely convertible currency, which has significantly intensified in recent times.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Azerbaijan

LD2504104192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1645 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRES correspondent]

[Text] Chisinau, 22 Apr (TASS)—Moldova and Azerbaijan have signed an agreement to cooperate in the spheres of education and science. The protocol on implementing the agreement notes that each of the sides will enroll 10,000 students in their universities or other higher education institutions on the basis of parity and will guarantee them grants and hostel accomodation according to the norms in force in the relevant country.

Kyrgyzstan

Turkish Prime Minister on Official Visit

Heads 200-Man Delegation

LD2804104992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0938 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By KYRGYZTAG-TASS correspondent Albert Bogdanov]

[Text] Bishkek April 28 TASS—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel arrived here for an official visit today. He leads a more than 200-man delegation. It includes members of the Turkish parliament, ministers and businessmen.

The delegation will have talks in the Supreme Soviet of Kyrgyzstan, will attend a joint meeting of the Kyrgyz-Turkish Council, will call at various government agencies. A protocol is expected to be signed on relations between Kyrgyzstan and Turkey after Demirel's talks with Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev and head of [words indistinct] Tursunbek Chingyshev.

A festive ceremony will be held today to proclaim Demirel honorary citizen of Bishkek. A Turkish Embassy will open in the Kyrgyz capital tomorrow.

Investment Agreement Signed

TA2804184192 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1715 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Bishkek (AA)— Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and Kyrgyz Prime Minister Chyngyshev Tursunbek Chyngyshev signed today an agreement for the encouragement and safeguarding of investments between the two countries.

Following talks between Demirel and Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev, official talks began between the delegations of the two countries.

During the talks, Chyngyshev called on Turkey to join the Central Asian Investment Fund established during the summit held in Bishkek by the CIS leaders, pointing out that in this way the investment fund could be transformed into an international bank.

Reviewing Kyrgyz efforts to implement a market economy, Chyngyshev called on Turkey to support a project to build a vegetable oil factory.

Pointing out that preparations are under way for the establishment of a school of higher learning to teach Turkish culture, Chyngyshev said that they expected Turkey to support this project.

The Kyrgyz prime minister also asked for Turkish assistance to put the wealth of raw materials in his country to use to improve the local pharmaceutical industry.

Speaking during the official talks, Demirel promised that Turkey will do its best to contribute to efforts to transform Kyrgyzstan into a civilized and democratic state with a free market economic system. He added that Turkey will support the concrete projects mentioned by Chyngyshev.

Demirel continued: Turks living in an area expanding from the Adriatic Sea to the China Sea have awakened and become active. Continue to fly the Turkic flag in this beautiful country.

Following the addresses, the agreement for the encouragement and safeguarding of investments between the two countries was signed.

Turkey To Provide Credit Package

TA2904103592 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0907 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Bishkek (AA)—Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel agreed on Tuesday [28 April] to provide the Central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan with a package of export credits worth 75 million dollars.

Demirel, in Kyrgyzstan on the second leg of a tour of five former Soviet republics, offered the Eximbank credit to Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev, along with soft loans to fund sales of Turkish wheat and sugar.

The aid for Kyrgyzstan followed the signing of credit deals worth at least 500 million dollars with Uzbekistan, the first stop of Demirel's tour.

Demirel also discussed the creation of a development bank to channel investment to the southern members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The proposed bank would be run from Ankara on the model of the Asian Development Bank. [passage omitted]

Officials Hold News Conference

TA2804173092 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1635 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Bishkek (AA)—Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, in Bishkek on the second leg of his tour to five Moslem republics of the former Soviet Union, said on Tuesday [28 April] that ties between Turkey and brotherly Kyrgyzstan would be developed in every aspect.

In a joint news conference with Kyrgyz Prime Minister Chyngyshev Tursunbek Chingyshev, Demirel said Ankara was determined to support Bishkek in every field.

"What we want to see in all these Moslem republics is peace, security and welfare. It is only natural that Turkey wants close cooperation with them," he said.

Chingyshev said his country is planning to switch to the Latin alphabet but this requires time.

He said the people's will should be of the highest priority and this switch will also present a financial problem since all the printing offices are presently using the Cyrillic alphabet.

On Wednesday Demirel is due to conclude his contacts in Bishkek and is due to leave the Kyrgyz capital for Kazakhstan after attending the opening ceremony of the Turkish Embassy here.

Turkish Embassy Opens

LD2904111292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0735 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By KYRGYZTAG correspondent Albert Bogdanov]

[Text] Bishkek, 29 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey opened here today. Speaking at the ceremony, Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said that his country will facilitate the development of Kyrgyzstan's economy in every possible way, and will develop its political and cultural ties with Kyrgyzstan.

Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Tursunbek Chyngyshev made a speech in reply. After opening the embassy, the Turkish delegation left immediately for Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan.

President Akayev Stresses Need for EC Help

OW2804175092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from issue No. 61 of the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking with vice-president of the Commission of the EC Franz Andriessen Tuesday [28 April] morning, President Akayev named two spheres in which, he said, the republic needed aid from EC experts. First of all, Kyrgyzstan needs expert help in forming a tax policy stimulating economic reforms. According to the president, despite "much progress toward a legal infrastructure for market reforms" they are being hampered by the old fiscal tax system.

Secondly, the Kazakh [as received] head believes that "the Republic is confused over privatization and denationalization of state enterprises, and this process also calls for expert aid and personnel training."

President Akayev noted the desirability of cooperation with the EC in the implementation of concrete projects such as the construction of the Naryn cascade of hydroelectric stations, construction of auto roads connecting the CIS countries via the territory of Kyrgyzstan with China and other countries of Southeast Asia, and the creation of enterprises to producer microelectronic chips. It is also necessary, says the president, to cooperate in mining. He believes that the implementation of these programs would produce a socioeconomic effect not only in Central Asia and Kazakhstan [as received] but also in the CIS as a whole.

Akayev emphasized that Kyrgyzstan was not waiting for alms and was willing to consider the implementation of such projects on a mutually beneficial basis and supported the proposal on the opening of a regional branch of the EC Commissions in Bishkek.

The president regards as a priority in technological aid from the EC Commission the support of the land reform in Kyrgyzstan and the provisioning of machinery and equipment for the processing of products to farmers.

The peak of the economic crisis is still ahead, said Akayev. He said that the increased prices of energy will have a catastrophic effect on the situation in Kyrgyzstan, a republic that imports 95 percent of oil and gas from other countries. The government is doing the utmost to reverse the slump in production, first of all in agriculture, in order to save the 1992 harvest. All available material and financial resources were directed to strengthen the peasant and and independent farms. These measures are increasing the budget deficit to 4 bn. [billion] rubles. Akayev said that though experts view Kazakhstan as being in the vanguard of the CIS countries in terms of progress on the agricultural reform (there are more than 14,000 independent farms in the republic) the difficulties with equipment and credits are calling into question the efficiency of transformations in agriculture.

The president talks with Adriessen on the prospects and future of the CIS. According to him, "Kyrgyzstan objectively needs the Commonwealth, but it remains quite frail today." It is frail, says Akayev, because a firm economic foundation has not yet been created. "A recent Bishkek meeting between the Central Asia presidents and Kazakhstan [as received] had as its aim to proclaim the desire to strengthen the Commonwealth." The head of Kyrgyzstan noted the common interest of the participants in the Bishkek summit that the summit of the CIS leaders on May 15 in Tashkent produce results capable of strengthening relations of Commonwealth members.

EC To Give 40 Million Dollars

LD2804190692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By unidentified KYRGYZTAG correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Bishkek April 28 TASS—A credit of 40 million dollars can be allocated for concrete programmes of economic development, said Vice-President of the European Community Commission Frans Andriessen during a talk with President of the Republic Askar Akayev and Prime-Minister Tursunbek Chyngyshev in Bishkek.

This visit started the work on a bilateral agreement between the European Community and Kyrgyzstan. A

coordination bureau will start its work here in the near future. Its experts will prepare projects of rapid development of hydro-power engineering, transport, agriculture and other shperes. The credit will be paid off within three years.

Mongolia Establishes Diplomatic Relations

LD2504093192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0154 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dugar Sanzhiyev]

[Text] Ulaanbator, 25 Apr—Mongolian radio, referring to the country's Foreign Policy Department, today broadcast the news that diplomatic relations have been established between Mongolia and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan prompted by a desire to develop friendly relations and cooperation based on the principles of mutual benefit and equality.

Kyrgyzstan has become the 12th former Union republic to establish diplomatic relations with Mongolia since the collapse of the USSR.

Tajikistan

Tajik Capital in 'Grip of Rally Fever'

PM2804150392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Aleksandr Karpov and Vladimir Skosyrev report: "Dushanbe Again in Grip of Rally Fever"]

[Text] Dushanbe—The political air in Dushanbe was cleared for just one day.

Many followers of S. Kenjayev, the former speaker of parliament, came to light in Kulyab Oblast and in other regions. They began holding rallies. At first in outlying districts, but then they descended upon the capital and set up camp in Ozodi Square, opposite the Supreme Soviet building. Tents have been pitched there, and angry speeches are made into a microphone in defense of legality and against pressure on parliament. We do not know how spontaneous the protest in outlying districts was, but the rally participants could not have been brought to Dushanbe without a strong organizing hand. We saw with our own eyes more than 10 buses in which people came here. This, given the present catastrophic fuel situation...

In the evening young people marched in formation around Ozodi Square, singing. "They are defense volunteers who ensure security at the rally," it was explained to us. Meanwhile, curious things were happening at the rally itself. It was being addressed by various officials and the hero of the day himself—S. Kenjayev. He told the gathering that he had campaigned against the mafia and was removed because of this. The rally participants gave him a tumultuous welcome and proclaimed this slogan: "Kenjayev is our Andropov!" The comparison might seem strange if you did not know that, following Kenjayev's forced resignation, the president had at once "rehabilitated" him, appointing him chairman of the National Security Committee.

One of the opposition politicians with whom we spoke was plunged almost into a state of shock by that news. He does not rule out the possibility that they will now arrest him and, in preparing for arrest, he has already sent his family to another city.

Be that as it may, the former chairman of the Supreme Soviet has today become a key political figure along with Qadi Kolon (the head of Tajikistan's Muslims). He made his career in law-enforcement organs. A jurist by training, he worked in a rayon prosecutor's office, grew to be transport prosecutor, and then chairman of the control committee under the president. Incidentally, he was also leader of the president's election campaign, and not a bad one either, it has to be believed, since R. Nabiyev picked up 57 percent of the votes.

The venture of organizing a permanent rally of supporters of the present leadership was undoubtedly an effective move. Celebrating victory, the opposition lost its head at first. The young people of the capital and the countryside, who the previous day had quietly dispersed to their homes, did not return at once to the government building in the square. But they did return, and there too a tent city grew up once again.

The two squares, in which political opponents have gathered, are separated by the approximately 1,000-meter length of Rudaki Avenue and a thin line of militiamen with aluminum shields but no weapons.

We spoke with the "opposition defense volunteers."

"Why are you drawn up in a column, since the militia is here?"

"We too are responsible for order," a little guy, evidently a student, explained. "We are guarding the democrats. The Communists are over there," he pointed toward Ozodi Square.

If only everything were so clear and simple... People's Deputy Tokhir Abdudzhabor, leader of the "Rastokhez" Movement, which forms an opposition bloc along with the Islamic Revival Party [IRP] and the Democratic Party, told us that the Communists, while talking about reforms, really intend to reinstate the administrative edict system. This is what the opposition is fighting against. But Abdudzhabor at once admitted that it is not members of the democratic intelligentsia who are stage-managing the crowd. The IRP has the greatest influence over them. When you see the rally participants standing in Shokhidon Square beneath the green banners of the prophet and enthusiastically exclaiming "Allah is great!" you become clearly aware that the preservation of the state's temporal character is also at stake. To be fair, it should be pointed out that Qadi Kolon Khodzhi Akbar

Turadzhonzoda does not tire of repeating that the opposition is not seeking to establish an Islamic republic. Its goal is a parliamentary democracy.

But do all religious leaders and IRP figures share his views? There is no certainty here. For you usually hear when talking with these people: An Islamic republic will only be established if this is what the people want. A rather vague formula. It certainly does not reassure the Russian-speaking population, nor many Tajiks.

So, the two squares are opposite each other. A dangerous situation. If the situation escalates into direct clashes and bloodshed, the Tajik state will perish, Sh. Yusupov, leader of the Democratic Party, warns.

President R. Nabiyev of the Republic of Tajikistan spoke on the radio 26 April, ending a silence that had lasted many days for health reasons. His address to his fellow citizens was also imbued with a sense of alarm. He asked everyone to find the way to mutual understanding.

No Solution in Sight

LD2804165992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Rallies continue in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe. The opposition forces believe that President Rakhman Nabiyev violated the peace agreement reached with the rallying opposition on Friday [24 April]. The chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan stressed that Nabiyev used this agreement to organize a meeting of supporters of Kenjayev, the former chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet.

According to independent sources, the situation in Dushanbe has become explosive after the setting up of an alternative movement in defense of ex-speaker Kenjayev and President Nabiyev. The RIA agency has just reported that a joint sitting of the Tajik Supreme Soviet Presidium and the republican cabinet of ministers continued till the early hours of morning. No way out of the current situation was found, and no decision was made on when the session of parliament should open.

Meanwhile, more than 50,000 people are now taking part in the rallies.

'Open Conflict' Threatened

LD2804170492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1400 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By KHOVAR TAJIK NEWS AGENCY correspondent Galina Gridneva for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe April 20 TASS—Despite desperate calls of the Tajik leadership for national reconciliation, the rally arbitrariness is threatening to overgrow into an open conflict between the government's supporters and opponents.

The conflicting sides are now separated by only several dozens of "neutral zone" meters, where police cordons are placed.

Streets adjoining Shakhidon and Ozodi Squares have turned into tent camps. Cars carrying residents of remote and close Tajik areas continue coming to the capital.

The number of rallies' participants have reached about 100,000 people, according to preliminary estimates.

The opposition demands that the Ozodi Square rally, which, in their opinion was "provoked by the official authorities and ex-parliament speaker Safarli Kenjayev" be immediately stopped. They also accuse the republican leadership of violating the agreement with the opposition leaders and say they will stand to the last man.

The Ozodi Square rally insists on immediate convocation of an extraordinary Supreme Soviet session and annulment of all as they say "anti-constitutional" decisions taken by the parliament under the opposition's pressure.

The rally participants expressed no-confidence to Tajik Muslim Qadi Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda for making advances to the opposition, representing the interests of only a "small group of the population". The opposition is also accused of striving to turn Tajikistan into an Islamic republic and igniting fraud between population of various regions.

Today a column of bellicose youngsters marched along a Dushanbe prospect towards Shokhidon Square, and a volunteer mounted unit from the Kurgan-Tyubinskiy region, supporting the government, entered Ozodi Square.

Kenjayev Ralliers Refuse Talks

LD2804201192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By TIA KHOVAR correspondent Galina Gridneva for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe April 28 TASS—Representatives of an alternative rally on Ozodi Square have called for introducing the presidential form of government in Tajikistan before a new constitution is adopted and parliamentary elections held in the republic.

At a press conference here today they emphasised "this is the only way to put an end to non-stop rallies in dushanbe and other cities of the republic."

Asked if "it would not be better to sit down at the negotiating table with the opposition in the name of national unity," Abdullo Ochilov, a rally organiser and chairman of the republican party of Tajikistan, said they

"would not conduct any dialogues with political terrorists." he noted that "once these people come to power, they will establish a totalitarian Islamic regime here, which is not better than the Communist dictatorship."

Speakers at the press conference refuted the opposition's statements that the rally on Ozodi Square was organised and subsidised by the official authorities. "People arrived here to voice their indignation over the opposition's actions, the attempt by its leaders, first and foremost Islamic-minded people, to split the united people of Tajikistan, provoke enmity and mistrust between them and nudge them into the abyss of a civil war," Ochilov said.

"Using false slogans about commitment to the creation of a democratic secular state as a cover-up, they are in fact trying an Islamic model on our republic, to which not a single sensible resident of Tajikistan will agree."

Rally passions continue to heat up.

Parliament Meets Amid Unrest

LD2904093992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0848 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By KHOVAR correspondent Galina Gridneva for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe April 29 TASS—A session of the Tajik Parliament opens in Dushanbe on Wednesday [29 April] to discuss the political situation in the country.

Since last September, the Tajik Parliament has been working under stress seeking a settlement to satisfy the conflicting sides and achieve national reconciliation.

Meanwhile, rallies continue in the city with participants voicing contradictory demands and displaying their determination to struggle to the end.

The situation remains tense today. Numerous cars, lorries, buses have arrived in the Tajik capital from other cities and are now moving towards the Shokidon Square where supporters of the Tajik Government are to hold a rally. The opposition radio declares support to the opposition forces in other regions of the republic.

Reports about mass rallies of solidarity in the Kulyabskiy and Leninabadskiy regions, are voiced on the Ozodi Square in the Tajik capital.

End to Rallies Demanded

OW2904140292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1348 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The population of Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, has demanded that an end be put to all meetings of the supporters and opponents of the authorities and that the parliament not gather for an extraordinary session. On Wednesday [29 April], residents of Dushanbe met in front of the local trade center to demand that peace be restored and normal work resumed.

At the moment they are picketing the republican TV center urging the TV administration to give them a chance to announce their demands on TV.

Meanwhile, the extraordinary session of the Tajik parliament scheduled for Wednesday (14:00) has not opened. According to reliable sources, Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev and the republic's Muslim leader Khadzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda are having talks.

Islamic Party Not Seeking System's Destruction

PM2304151692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Vladimir Skosyrev report: "No Islamic Republic in Tajikistan for Time Being"]

[Text] The stormy events in the capital of Tajikistan have attracted the attention of foreign mass media. A REUTER report linked the taking of members of parliament as hostages with opposition statements demanding the resignation of the speaker of the Supreme Soviet and the holding of elections on a multiparty basis.

According to the agency's information, violent actions were committed against deputies by "national guardsmen" supporting the opposition. At the same time, according to the information of the Ministry of Internal Affairs eight people were taken hostage, but according to the opposition's information—18.

Naturally, the further development of events in the republic will depend on the actions of both the government and the opposition forces. Statements by Sh. Yusupov, leader of the Democratic Party, and by M. Khikmatzoda, leader of the Islamic Revival Party [IRP], are of interest in this connection.

Yusupov expressed readiness to cooperate with the new Supreme Soviet chairman. Khikmatzoda assured deputies that his party does not seek the destruction of the present state system. "The system can only be changed if the people decide to create an Islamic republic."

Such a statement, however reassuring it sounded, requires elucidation. For this we turned to Ravil Tazhetdin, employee of the IRP's Moscow press service. Our interlocutor believes that there is still a communist regime in Tajikistan, although its leaders have changed color. This regime has acted as a brake on change and the democratization of society. Therefore the IRP is waging a struggle against it, only not with revolutionary or violent methods.

"But are not hostage-taking and the creation of paramilitary detachments violent methods?"

R. Tazhetdin said that he could neither confirm nor deny reports that the opposition has formed armed detachments.

"Does the party set the goal of establishing a theocratic system in the republic after the pattern of Iran, for example?"

Our interlocutor replied that the IRP is a parliamentary-type party and does not take the internal system of any other country as a pattern. At the same time he refused to discuss the question of whether parties which do not profess the values of Islam will be permitted to operate in the republic if the IRP accedes to power.

Uzbekistan

Decree Issued To Protect Mass Media

LD2904115392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1124 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By UZA-TASS]

[Text] Tashkent April 29 TASS—Uzbek President Islam Karimov issued a decree on Wednesday [29 April] to take the republican mass media under state protection in order to improve its financial situation which turned out to be in a critical condition in the period of transition to a free market economy.

A total of 100 million roubles will be appropriated to the republican media in 1992 from Uzbekistan's budget to cover the growing expenses. Location of additional sums is envisaged in the future.

Newspapers and magazines, publishing houses and bookshops, as well as Uzbekistan's state TV and radio broadcasting company and the national news agency will be exempt from paying the value added tax.

The republican mass media will enjoy privileges in taxes on profits earned by selling periodicals, textbooks and children's literature.

They will also be granted favourable tariffs to lease premises. Hard currency will be allocated to the Uzbek state committee for the press and the state TV and radio broadcasting company to buy new equipment and technical facilities.

The decree also announces that salaries of media workers will increase by fifty per cent on average as of May 1, 1992.

Further on Turkish Prime Minister's Visit

'Tens of Thousands' Welcome Demirel

PM2804185592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Viktor Volodin report: "We Have Come To See Our Blood Brothers, the Turkish Prime Minister States in Uzbekistan"]

[Text] Tashkent has not seen such a welcome for a long time. Tens of thousands of citizens greeted S. Demirel all the way along the road from the airport to his out-of-town residence. This is understandable: The peoples of Turkey and Uzbekistan have been linked from time immemorial by a community of cultures, language, and traditions.

Prime Minister S. Demirel and President I. Karimov held talks, and then, IZVESTIYA's correspondent in Tashkent Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov reports, met with people's deputies and representatives of the public in the Great Hall of Sessions of the Republic of Uzbekistan Supreme Soviet. In his welcoming address President of Uzbekistan I. Karimov noted the republic's commitment to the economic development on the Turkish model and concluded his speech with the words: "Long live the unity of Uzbeks and Turks." In his speech in response S. Demirel stressed that he had come to to an independent Uzbekistan which had become a full member of the United Nations.

On the morning of 28 April the scarlet banner with the white half-moon and the five-pointed star rose above the Turkish Embassy in Tashkent. At the press conference after the ceremony of the opening of the Turkish Embassy S. Demirel noted that he was deeply satisfied with the results of his visit and his meetings with his blood brothers. During the visit Uzbekistan and Turkey signed an agreement on cooperation between banks and collaboration in the sphere of air and automobile transport, the granting of credits, and also the legal defense of Turkish investments in Uzbekistan's economy. At midday the guest from Ankara flew to Bishkek.

Nevertheless, foreign news agencies report that a lightning visit to Tajikistan by the Turkish prime minister, who is rounding off a week-long tour of the Asian republics of the CIS, may not take place. Radio Liberty cites as a factor that could disrupt S. Demirel's visit schedule the fevered passions aroused in the republic capital. Our own correspondent in Tajikistan, Aleksandr Karpov, who contacted Tajikistan Foreign Minister L. Kayomov by phone, reports that the question of the Turkish government head's visit to Dushanbe has not yet been settled, and is being discussed with the Turkish side. The minister suggests that S. Demirel's visit will be postponed to a later date because of the complex situation in the city.

Karimov Meets Demirel at Embassy

LD2904055592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Video report by Tashkent correspondent Sh. Ganiyeva on Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's visit to Uzbekistan on 28 April; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Demirel and Turkish Government officials attended a special ceremony marking the opening of the Turkish Embassy after signing a communique and a

number of important interstate documents. Uzbek President Islam Karimov, republican legislators, representatives of political parties, and the city's public attended the opening. (Orhan Cotur) was appointed Turkish ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Uzbekistan. A news conference was held here on the results of the visit. On our question regarding the main political result of this visit, the head of the Turkish Government said that relations between the two states have acquired a new, constructive nature which will soon yield realistic political, economic, and cultural results. The high guest and those accompanying him flew to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, this afternoon.

Ministry Statement on Afghanistan Events

PM2704150192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov report: "Uzbekistan Shares UN Concern Over Events in Afghanistan"]

[Text] Tashkent—The Uzbek Foreign Ministry has circulated a statement in connection with the complication of the situation in Afghanistan.

The statement says that the Republic of Uzbekistan has consistently advocated and advocates that the Afghan problem be resolved by the Afghans themselves on the basis of the UN peace initiatives. Uzbekistan shares the world community's concern over the complication of the military-political situation in the neighboring country over the last few days and expresses support for Butros Ghali's corresponding statement. People in Tashkent think that there is no alternative to a political settlement, the cessation of bloodshed and violence, national reconciliation, and the preservation of Afghanistan's unity and territorial integrity.

Cabinet of Ministers Authorizes Conscription

LD2804154992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1438 GMT 28 Apr 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tashkent—Uzbekistan Cabinet of Ministers authorized to send conscripts on a voluntary or a contractual basis to the CIS Joint Armed Forces Strategic Forces, western and northern groups of forces and the Navy, with the exception of the Black Sea units and Caspian flotilla. The resolution by Uzbekistan Cabinet of Ministers on transferring to the reserve from the armed forces, border and internal troops, of servicemen who have fully completed the established terms of active military service and on the regular call-up of citizens to the active and alternative service, published on April 28, says, among others, that the draft will affect units and formations of the armed forces, border troops of the National Security Service, internal troops of Uzbekistan Interior Ministry as well as the CIS Strategic Forces, dislocated on the republican territory, with due regard for ex-territorial principle of formation. The resolution coordinates the work of all state and public structures, who are in charge of conducting the call-up campaign, its legal and material provision: Ministry of Defense issues, Ministry of Public Education, Interior Ministry, Ministries of Public Health, Culture and Trade, Republican Prosecutor's Office and others.

New Oilfield Discovered at Min-Bulak

OW2804130292 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Unidentified correspondent's video report; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] The news that a source of oil has been discovered in Uzbekistan caused a recent sensation. If we add the significant deposits of black gold to the white cotton already there, then the prospects for Uzbekistan's economic growth take on rainbow hues.

[Correspondent] Now the world knows about the Min-Bulak oil deposit. It was sought for a long time. Its existence in the Ferganskaya Valley was surmised, and various places were drilled. And so on 2 March, while drilling at rig Number 5 at a depth of 5,200 meters, a powerful fountain of high quality raw oil was struck. I will say frankly that no one here was prepared for such a big deluge. Under a pressure of 1,200 atmospheres daily, more than 15,000 cubic meters of oil is being forced out. Special anti-gusher and anti-fire units have been trying to bridle the colossal source for two months. The spilled oil is being gathered into an artificial repository and taken to an oil refinery by truck. Even this was [word indistinct] the flow increased.

To avert an ecological disaster, a river of oil is being created from the flow. Specialist oilmen from various countries proposed to topple the drilling rig, ignite the fountain, then extinguish the flames and smother the opening. All the work at the site is progressing according to plan. Today it is engulfed in flames, and here they are preparing to bridle the flaming fountain. According to the specialists' opinion, the site will be handed over to the operators by the end of the month. The reserves at Min-Bulak are not known yet, but according to quality, the deposit is of world standards.

(?The oil contains) various tars, (?paraffins), kerosene, and petroleum coke. It is more profitable to use it in the chemical industry than to burn it in [word indistinct] and (?turbines). However, this is a problem for the specialists. The main thing is that there is a large deposit of oil in Uzbekistan. That is a fact, and undoubtedly it creates new prospects for economic development for the republic.

To Be Developed Independently

LD2704174592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1417 GMT 27 Apr 92

[From the "Domestic Market" Section]

[Text] Tashkent—Boris Starokozhev, head of Uzbekneft's Geological Department: Despite proposals from foreign firms to develop an oil field discovered in the Namangan region, Uzbekistan will be able to produce and process oil independently. Starokozhev also told PF [POSTFACTUM] specialists in localizing oil ejections and fires from the United States, Britain and also from Groznyy and Moscow are currently working on the Min Bulak field.

According to Uzbekistan's mass media reports, the American firm Sten Kornelius interprated [word as received] ferried by its aircraft its own well-sealing equipment.

Oil survey in the Namangan region was launched in 1971 but the fifth exploration well produced a powerful oil ejection only early last March. The discovered oil is Neogene. It can be used to produce oils, bitumen and fuel coke rather than petrol. The percentage composition of oil is undisclosed and its production volumes have not yet completely defined.

On April 12, the oil gusher was set ablaze to stem the ejection. Oil which is being ejected onto the surface is collected into special traps and transported to nearby oil refineries in the cities of Fergana and Altyaryk. Special reservoirs with the holding capacity of 5,000 tonnes each are being built.

'Obstacles' To Gold Production Criticized

OW2804125892 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Unidentified correspondent's video report; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] This is the Naruntal Quarry, one of the largest gold bearing quarries not only in Uzbekistan but also the world. Each year 20 million tonnes of ore from this rich deposit is processed at the Kazalkumzoloto Company's gold extracting plant.

Thanks to the best [word indistinct] equipment developed here, the gold extracted from this ore is of the highest and purest standard—four nines. However, this process is quite labor intensive. To extract two grams of the precious metal, it is necessary to process one—and sometimes two—tonnes of ore. After Uzbekistan's proclamation of its independence, the gold mining industry in the republic was nationalized. Now all the gold reserves of this land will promote the development of the independent republic by attracting leading technology here and by satisfying the domestic market with necessary and high quality goods. However, today, when the core of normal economic relations is lost, this mighty company is also on the brink of a crisis.

[Begin video recording] [G.A. Prokhorenko, director of the Central Ore Department] The reason is these obstacles which have been put in the path of the transfer of material wealth between republics and oblasts. In practical terms, at present only about 10 percent of the agreements for 1992 have been concluded with our suppliers. To put it mildly, the future is unknown. The politicians should immediately stop interfering in the economic ties between enterprises, separate regions, oblasts, and republics; if not, the economy in the territory of the former Soviet Union is threatened with complete collapse. At worst, a crash awaits us. [end video recording]

Armenia

President Rejects Prime Minister's Resignation

LD2804221292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2128 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 29 Apr—The Armenian Supreme Soviet rejected once again the concept of socioeconomic development for the republic drawn up by the republican Cabinet of Ministers. Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan did not accept the resignation notice tendered subsequently by Gagik Arutyunyan. Speaking at the parliament's session, Ter-Petrosyan accused some deputies of opposing the republic's political course. The republican leader noted also that his powers allow him to put the economic concept in the form of a presidential decree.

Ter-Petrosyan Holds Talks With Syrian Leaders

LD2604132392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0259 GMT 26 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Subbotin]

[Text] Damascus, 26 Apr—Syrian-Armenian summit talks began in Damascus on 25 April. According to a SANA agency report, during the three rounds of talks which took place, one of which took place behind closed doors, the heads of Syria and Armenia, Hafiz al-Asad and Levon Ter-Petrosyan, discussed international and regional problems, as well as issues pertaining to the development of bilateral relations.

Speaking at a dinner in honor of his esteemed guest from Yerevan and the delegation accompanying him on this three-day official visit to Syria, al-Asad recalled the close historical links between the people of Syria and Armenia. He stated his country's aim of expanding these links and expressed his conviction that this current visit will serve to reinforce the friendship and cooperation between the two states. There is no doubt that this is in both our interests, the Syrian leader stated.

In his reply, Ter-Petrosyan noted that Syrian-Armenian relations are deeply rooted in history. He recalled with gratitude the hospitality of Syrians who received tens of thousands of Armenians when they were driven from their homeland, and provided these people with all they needed to build a new life and to preserve their language and national identity. He noted that common historical fates and a single approach to current international affairs confirms the importance of developing bilateral cooperation at various levels.

According to SANA, the Armenian leader also pointed out the "important role of Syria in the Near East and evaluated highly its efforts to guarantee stability and to attain a just peace in the region and in the world arena as a whole."

Visit Termed 'Productive'

NC2904035992 Yerevan Armenia's Radio International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The Armenian delegation headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan returned from Syria late last night.

In an airport statement to Armenian television, Levon Ter- Petrosyan assessed his visit as very businesslike and productive.

Ter-Petrosyan To Attend Nagorno-Karabakh Talks

LD2904062492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0330 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] We already reported that Nagorno-Karabakh republican leaders have arrived in Yerevan to hold a series of political consultations with the Armenian leadership. Armenian President Ter-Petrosyan, the acting chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet, and Armenian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ararktsyan will be at the negotiating table today. Yerevan has still not recognized the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's independence, which was proclaimed as a result of a referendum.

Statement Issued on Chemical Weapons Charges

NC2904035492 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Foreign Ministry statement; date not given]

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry notes that the Azerbaijani mass media are disseminating disinformation that gives rise to serious concern in Armenia.

The dissemination of such information (?indicates) that Azerbaijan is intending to use chemical weapon in the Karabakh conflict.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry had stated that allegedly the self-defense forces of Nagorno-Karabakh have used shells filled with cyanide against the Azerbaijani Army. This statement was refuted by the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities, who have noted on many occasion that they have never used chemical weapons.

The Armenian Government also condemns this malicious propaganda.

The Azerbaijani statement (?might) have some impact on the international press, which would further exacerbate the situation in Transcaucasia. Also, Azerbaijan and certain Turkish circles might use this disinformation to further instigate the anti-Armenian hysteria in Turkey, thus creating new impediments on the way to normalizing Turkish-Armenian relations.

The Armenian Government is particularly concerned that this propaganda's aim might be to prepare international public opinion for Azerbaijan's use of chemical weapons in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in the future.

Azerbaijan has always been the initiator of exacerbating the situation. It is using increasingly destructive weapons. The mass shelling of Armenian cities and the massacre of peaceful Armenians confirm that there is no hope that Azerbaijan will adhere to international law and norms.

Considering this background and Azerbaijan's disinformation [word indistinct], Azerbaijan's intention to use chemical weapons in the region is giving rise to serious concern.

Defense Ministry Reports Azerbaijani Attacks

NC2804181092 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Yerevan, 28 Apr (ARMENPRES)—The Armenian Defense Ministry reported that for the last week the Azerbaijani Armed Forces have been intensively shelling Armenia's entire border region. All types of arms, such as cannons, grenade launchers, tanks, armored cars, helicopters, and machine guns, which turned up in the Azerbaijani Army's arsenal illegally, are being employed. The artillery shelling has caused destruction and human losses, particularly in Idzhevanskiy and Kapanskiy Rayons. Agricultural work has been called off.

The extent of these attacks and the categorical rejections given to the Armenian side's proposals to conduct talks on a cease-fire confirm that the Azerbaijani authorities have in effect undertaken to implement their dangerous and irresponsible plan to drag Armenia into a large-scale military clash and eventually into a war.

Under these conditions, the Armenian Defense Ministry is forced to take measures to ensure the inviolability of the republic's borders and the security of the population of the border regions.

On 25-26 April, the subunits of the Armenian border guard troops, with the assistance of the reserve forces, occupied and destroyed the positions of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces—which had brought the Armenian settlements under continuous fire in recent days—at the Azerbaijani villages of Barkhudarly, Sofulu, Kazanchi, and Seytas, which border Idzhevanskiy and Kapanskiy Rayons.

The enemy suffered human and material losses during the operation. Ten Armenian fighters were martyred.

The situation remained tense all along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border on 27 April.

The Armenian Defense Ministry declares that the responsibility for the further spread of military operations and possible new victims and destruction will rest fully with the Azerbaijani leadership.

Azerbaijan Accused of Taking Food Supplies

LD2804190292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs a protest note in connection with the continuing cases of unlawful unloading, on that republic's territory, of freight destined for Armenia. The document stresses, in particular, that the Armenian side possesses fresh facts confirming the deliberate nature of such actions.

Thus, the note points out, in accordance with credits granted by the West to countries of the CIS, since the beginning of the current year, grain and flour had been dispatched from Germany and the United States to Armenia and, under interrepublican deliveries, flour had been sent from Ukraine.

It is estimated that 50,000 tonnes of grain and 9,426 tonnes of flour have not arrived, and a considerable part of this is now on the territory of Azerbaijan. According to reports from the Azerbaijan Railway, the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs writes, it has on its tracks no bread product freight for Armenian enterprises. But, the note continues, facts testify that 11 train carloads of wheat dispatched by Odessa and Ilyichevsk ports were unlawfully handed over, on the local authorities' instructions, to a Nakhichevan bread products combine. Two carloads of flour from Kiev Oblast were dispatched on the instructions of the management of the Azerbaijan Railway without any justification to Gyandzhy for the workers' supply department of the railway. Another two carloads of flour were intercepted by Baku Bread Products Combine.

The information on the said train cars, the Armenian Foreign Ministry notes, was obtained only as a result of complaints to the suppliers concerning non-delivery. Moreover, there are telegrams from the relevant enterprises of Azerbaijan on payments for bread products addressed to Armenia.

In the opinion of the Armenian Foreign Ministry, the Azerbaijan side is blatantly breaching the agreement of the sovereign states of the CIS on food supplies in 1992 and the basic principles of operation of the railways of the CIS in the transitional period and also the international laws and standards in this sphere.

Azerbaijan

Seven Presidential Candidates Profiled

OW2804180892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from issue No. 61 of the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [27 April] evening, the official registration of candidates to the post of Azerbaijan's president was completed. Only seven of the 11 candidates initially registered have cleared the last barrier and are running to the finish line.

IF's [INTERFAX] note: Each candidate has been allocated 10,000 roubles to carry out the canvassing campaign, to travel and to meet with electors. In experts' estimate, the whole of the election campaign will cost the electors 18 million roubles.

The candidates who have collected 20,000 signatures are considered officially registered. They are:

Yakub Mamedov, Chairman of the Azeri parliament and acting president of the republic (263,248 signatures);

Abulfaz Elchibei, the leader of the Popular Front (529,996);

Etibar Mamedov, a representative of the National Independence Party of Azerbaijan;

Nizami Suleimanov, a representative of the Union of democratic Forces and a corresponding member of the Azeri Academy of Sciences (25,783);

Rafik Abdullayev, a representative of the People's Democratic Group of Azerbaijan (23,146);

Ilyas Ismailov, a nominee of Azerbaijan's Movement for Democratic Reform (20,100);

Tamerlan Garayev, Vice-Chairman of the Azeri parliament, nominated by a number of organizations, including the January 20 Committee (48,187).

Earlier Ashraf Mekhtiyev, nominated by the Association of Victims of Political reprisals, had removed his candidature.

Araz Alizade, the leader of the Azeri Social-Democratic Party lacked 377 signatures to continue the race.

As for Geydar Aliyev, 69-year-old head of the Nakhichevan parliament, he did not meet the age qualification (65), which could be changed, though, by the parliament's session scheduled for April 27. The session was indefinitely put off.

Yakub Mamedov said on TV a few days ago that he did not know whether or not he would continue the presidential race.

New Head of Baku City Garrison Appointed

NC2804192592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92

["Order No. 132" issued by Defense Minister R. Kaziyev in Baku on 28 April]

[Text] In view of the cessation of the work of the CIS Armed Forces Commandant's Administration in Baku and considering the need to establish the necessary rules and regulations for the military servicemen to maintain a high degree of military discipline, I order the following:

1. Major General Musayev, first deputy minister of defense, will assume the responsibilities of the head of the Baku City Garrison on 28 April.

2. The military police administration will be subordinate to him to facilitate the quick settlement of matters related to executing the responsibilities of the head of the Baku City Garrison.

3. The head of the Baku City Garrison will coordinate (?his work) with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the law enforcement organs to establish the required level of law and order.

4. This order will be put into effect as soon as it is signed.

5. The section concerning the staff will be conveyed to them.

[Signed] Defense Minister R. Kaziyev

Mission in Moscow Complains Over Media Reportage

LD2504113392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Azerbaijan Republic's plenipotentiary mission in Moscow today issued a statement expressing regret over the fact that certain Russian mass media have in their coverage of the Nagorno-Karabakh situation been carrying unverified information. They have thereby been exacerbating the large-scale military actions being prepared, as this statement says, by Armenia.

Iranian Humanitarian Aid Continues To Arrive

NC2904054292 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Iran continues to dispatch humanitarian aid to Azerbaijan. Two aircraft have landed in Baku with a cargo of medical supplies, foodstuffs, clothes, shoes [words inditinct] for the Azerbaijani Red Crescent Organization. The delivery of the humanitarian aid was supervised by M. Serkan, secretary general of the Azerbaijani Red Crescent Organization, and S. Yakubi, adviser to the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

An AZERINFORM correspondent has been informed by the Azerbaijani Ministry of Health that the foodstuffs will be dispatched to the fighters of the national self-defense forces and the medical supplies and clothes will be supplied to the hospitals.

The Red Crescent Organizations of Azerbaijan and Iran have agreed to increase cooperation.

Georgia

Shevardnadze on Ties With Germany After Genscher

OW2804162092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze said that following the resignation of German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, relations between Germany and Georgia would not deteriorate. "I know that Helmut Kohl and other German politicians actively support the ongoing rapprochement between the two states, he told journalists on Monday [27 April] evening.

He described Genscher as one of the most popular politicians in the world.

Mr. Genscher will not quit big politics, and will remain our true friend, said Eduard Shevardnadze.

Georgian Germans Demand Restoration of Rights

AU2704114792 Tbilisi NOVAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 6, Apr 92, p 6

[Unattributed Article: "The Demands of Georgia's Germans"]

[Text] **The Germans living in Georgia have sent a letter addressed to Tengiz Sigua, chairman of the Provisional Government of Georgia. According to the members of the Association of Georgia's Germans and its president, Nodar Kudriani, it is high time that the rights of Germans living in Georgia be restored.**

They believe that a special resolution should be adopted that will resolve at least several questions. In the first instance, that of financial compensation for those who were repressed and the members of their families; the restoration of German nationality for those persons who were forced to change it in 1941; the recognition of all Georgia's Germans who were mobilized into the Labor Army and those persons who were resettled and who worked in the national economy during 1941-45 as participants of the Patriotic War and the establishment of all the privileges stipulated [in the law] for such a category of persons; the creation of favorable conditions for those wishing to leave for Germany, in particular, assistance in the transfer of personal financial savings to German banks and the removal of restrictions in the sale of real estate.

Incidentally, in connection with the latter point: The association itself has taken a very necessary step in order to facilitate the departure of Georgia's Germans to Germany. A special emigration service "Stern" has been formed as part of the association that will assist in the efficient resolution of questions connected with their departure.

British Ambassador, Military Attache Hold Talks

AU2804074192 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Sir Roderic Braithwaite, Great Britain's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Moscow, arrived in Tbilisi aboard a special plane. He was met at Tbilisi airport by Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Tedo Japaridze, Republic of Georgia's first deputy minister of foreign affairs, and other officials.

Sir Roderic Braithwaite met with the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, the Most Holy and Beatific Ilia II, and attended the Easter mass. Yesterday, Batoni Braithwaite met with Batoni Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council, and the republic's other leaders.

Yesterday, in the Cabinet of Ministers, Batoni [name indistinct], the military attache at the British Embassy in Moscow, met and talked with Batoni Tengiz Kitovani, member of the republic's State Council Presidium, Batoni Levan Sharashenidze, the republic's defense minister, Batoni Anzur Maisuradze, chief of the security department, and Batoni Roman Gventsadze, internal affairs minister. The British military attache was interested in questions concerning Georgia's current Armed Forces and, particularly, their future structure, number, and weaponry. The conversation also touched upon the current political situation in the republic and in the whole Transcaucasian region. The military attache, Batoni [name indistinct], pointed out that England is interested in the stabilization of the political and economic situation in this region. Batoni [name indistinct] gave detailed replies to questions from representatives of Georgia's leadership.

Ambassador Presents Credentials

AU2804150292 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Sir Roderic Braithwaite, Great Britain's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, presented his credentials to Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Republic of Georgia State Council. Following the presentation of credentials and speeches, Shevardnadze and Braithwaite held talks.

Turkey Agrees To Resettle 50,000 Meskhetian Turks

LD2804172992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1648 GMT 28 Apr 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—Turkey is ready to receive 50 thousand Meskhetian Turks. This came to light in the course of the official visit to Turkey of the First Deputy Chairman of the Georgian State Council Jaba Ioseliani. During his talks with the Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Premier Suleyman Demirel the Georgian official said that a majority of the Meskhetian Turks consider themselves

ethnic Turks who lived in Southern Georgia till 1944. And they wish to move to their historical homeland. The Turkish leaders showed interest in the problem and expressed readiness to cooperate with Georgia in this field. The 50 thousand Meskhetian Turks will be resettled stage by stage. The Turkish side finds it impossible to settle such a number of people at once. The date of the resettlement was not announced.

'No Confrontations' Reported in S. Ossetia

AU2904082892 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] It is currently quiet in Samachablo [South Ossetia]. Following the departure of units of former USSR internal troops from the region, there have been no confrontations between Georgians and Ossetians.

Tension can still be felt; there is no public transport on account of fears for the security of passengers. The second road connecting Gori with the villages of Achabeti, Kekhvi, Eredvi, and Tamarasheni has not been sufficiently cleared to allow the regular flow of transport. As a result, the inhabitants of these villages are experiencing difficult living conditions. It is planned to clear the road in the next few days.

We received this information yesterday evening from Vasil (?Saganelidze), deputy chief of Gori's militia department.

Internal Troops Pullout Seen as 'Treachery'

PM2804150592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 92 p 1

[Report by S. Chernykh: "People Slept More Easily Under Fire"]

[Text] The unexpected withdrawal of Internal Troops from Tskhinvali sowed panic among the city's population. Only the day before the personnel had been lounging in the southern sun, but in the morning all that remained at the detachment's base was garbage and several large-caliber machineguns, which fetch 80,000 rubles here. Alan Chochiyev, first deputy chairman of the South Ossetia Supreme Soviet, said that the detachment's departure is more Russian treachery. Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Teziyev, on the other hand, believes that having no hope of outside protection will make the Ossetians rely on their own efforts.

In 1990, when the same regiment left Tskhinvali, the Georgian militia immediately took its place. By noon local radio, citing Mayak Radio, had related the gist of Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze's statement in which he promised to send Georgian armed formations to the region within two days to prevent any potential disorder.

While all this was going on, another session of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus was held in the city. The session decided to set up a Committee on Defense. The Confederation now has two military units, based in Groznyy. One of them made its military debut in March, helping the Chechen guards clear the Groznyy television center of the opposition.

All troop formations in this region, which considers itself a republic, are on red alert. But there have been no shootouts at all since the Russian Internal Troops left, which is perplexing to people accustomed to constant war. Having learned to fight well, the population of Tskhinvali is apprehensive about a peaceful life.

Situation in Republic 'Basically Normal'

AU2904143092 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The following information has come from the press center of the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs:

According to information received from town and regional internal affairs departments, the sociopolitical situation in the republic during 28 and 29 April has been basically normal. Only in the town of Zugdidi have the same activities of forces supporting the ex-president been noticed. Specifically, at 1300 on 28 April, approximately 300 persons gathered outside the movie theater in the center. They held a rally that lasted one hour at which they demanded the resignation of Otar [name indistinct], Zugdidi's gamgebeli [administrative board chairman] and the republic's Provisional Government, and the return of the former president, in connection with which they called for a referendum. Then, they set off toward the (?Engur) paper combine to continue their action together with the combine's workers. However, in accordance with the state of emergency, their path was blocked by internal Army units. Following several warning shots and words of explanation, the participants of the rally dispersed.

As regards the criminal situation, it remains tense. During the last day and night, 40 criminal offenses were registered in the republic, of which 19 have already been uncovered. There has been one murder, four robberies, 17 thefts, three automobiles have been stolen, and three persons have died in five automobile crashes.

During the night of 26 April, there was a collision between two goods trains at the Ochamchira [word indistinct] railroad crossing According to the preliminary investigation, the driver of the first train [passage indistinct] Following the collision, a gasoline (?car) was derailed and approximately 120 tons of gasoline were spilt. An investigation is under way.

Charter-91 Aide Hits South Ossetia Resolution

MK2304145592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 92 p 3

[Nodar Broladze report under "Georgia" rubric: "State Council Blames Previous Leadership for South Ossetia Confrontation. Not Everyone Agrees"]

[Text] The Republic of Georgia State Council Presidium resolution "On Measures To Regulate Interethnic Relations and Defend Human Rights" published in the republic press is aimed at resolving the conflict in South Ossetia by peaceful political means. "Thousands of people," the resolution says, "both Georgians and Ossetians, have been forced to leave their places of permanent residence and to become refugees, who now number 120,000. In the Tskhinvali area Georgian and Ossetian population centers are deserted."

The State Council resolution stresses that "the history of Georgia will place the whole responsibility for the fatalities and the chilling cases of murder by torture on the former authoritarian regime and its organizer, the former president."

This assessment has evoked a mixed reaction in the republic. Gela Chorgolashvili, a spokesman for the "Charter-91" party, does not agree with the term "interethnic conflict" and believes that it bears more of a political nature, as was indeed established by the deputies' commissions of the Russian and Georgian Supreme Soviets 31 May 1991.

"Furthermore, I would like to remind you that the conflict has a long history and deep political preconditions including some that relate to the period of the establishment of Soviet power in Georgia," Chorgolashvili believes. "I cannot deny that, for instance, Gamsakhurdia tried to resolve this problem in a way that led to confrontation. Gamsakhurdia undoubtedly committed many sins and mistakes, but I do not believe that it is justifiable to declare him to be the only source of all our disasters. I understand the desire of the new leadership of the republic to settle the conflict in the Tskhinvali area by peaceful political means, but it will be hard to resolve this poblem by means of endless accusations against the former government. Furthermore, it seems to me that the State Council resolution contains the element of a pseudohumane approach to the problem of the ethnic minorities which cannot assist in resolving it, nor does it correspond to state interests and it may have an adverse effect on the question of preserving Georgia's territorial integrity. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Defense Ministry Gives Details of National Army

LD2804215292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1824 GMT 28 Apr 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—Around 2,000 officers will serve in Georgia National Army consisting of 2 infantry corps and other fighting services.

As PF [POSTFACTUM] was told at Georgian Ministry of Defense [MOD] 1,260 officers—ethnic Georgians—currently serving in the various republics of the former USSR, will return home as cleared with the high command of the Joint Armed Forces of the CIS.

The MOD of Georgia also advised PF that the republican ground forces will consist of brigades made up of artillery divisions and tank battalions, besides infantry battalions. The brigades in their turn will make up two corps, to be deployed in western and eastern Georgia. PF was also advised that the training of specialists for the Navy, Airforce and anti-air defense had also been started. On June 1, 400 officers of the ground forces will start training at the former Tbilisi higher artillery command college with 500 border guards—at the base of an army unit in Lilo. The departments of operational planning, intelligence, communications, personnel, military police, material and technical supplies, construction and combat training are being set up within the framework of a new ministry of defense.

The specialists of Georgian MOD maintain that the build-up of a national army will be faced with considerable difficulties, for instance, rbs1.5bn will be necessary for the maintenance of just 1 brigade with equipment. Therefore, it is not highly likely that complete armed services will be announced shortly. Georgian MOD expects to have the Armed Forces built up gradually.

Gamsakhurdia Backers Reportedly Wreck Train

OW2804222392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Georgian Interior Ministry press center, as a result of a subversive action by supporters of the ousted president Zviad Gamsakhurdia, a freight train wreck occurred near the town of Ochamchir in Abkhazia early Tuesday [28 April] morning. There have been no casualties.

This is already the second subversive action on the Abkhaz part of the railroad, organized by Gamsakhurdia supporters over the last week. The Georgian Interior Ministry believes the Abkhaz law enforcement bodies are doing not enough to prevent criminal actions by Zviadists.

A spokesman for the Georgian State Council for Western Georgia G. Chachua told IF [INTERFAX] that on Monday night Gamsakhurdia supporters set fire on two village schools. The day before guardsmen detained in Zugdidi an armed group, members of which have been involved in similar actions.

Estonia

Talks With Russia on Military Questions Continue

LD2804162592 Tallinn Estonian Radio in English 1520 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The expert groups on the military questions of the Estonian-Russian negotiations met in Tallinn today. The talks take place in the framework of the Estonian-Russian negotiations and will continue tomorrow.

The main subject of the talks is the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia. Estonia has submitted a draft agreement on troops' withdrawal which includes the deadlines and order of the troops' pull-out. Russia has presented its draft agreement at the plenary meeting of the two delegations; however, the draft lacked any concrete deadlines. According to the Estonian deputy minister of defense, Mr. Toomas Puura, it was rather a draft agreement on troops staying in Estonia. Experts for the Russian part are led by the first deputy commander in chief of Naval Forces, Admiral Fedor Gromov, and the Estonian group is led by the Estonian deputy minister of defense, Toomas Puura.

Special Guard Service To Guard Tallinn Harbor

OW2804222992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1846 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Beginning from May 15, the Estonian Special Service is expected to initiate a guard service of the Tallinn harbor and airport, Chief of Special Service Ain Toots informed Interfax. [as received]

The Special Service is directly answerable to the Estonian Minister of Internal Affairs, and it was instituted to insure safety of the republics state officials.

Law Approved Protecting Russians' Work

LD2504214392 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Interview with Supreme Council Deputy Illar Hallaste by correspondent Gunnar Paal; on 20 April in the studio—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Paal] This afternoon, the Supreme Council reassembled at Toompea [in Tallinn] for the first session of the week. Once again, a resolution that was not adopted last week was studied. The Supreme Council voted on and adopted a resolution on employment guarantees in connection with the implementation of the citizenship law. Illar Hallaste, what was at issue?

[Hallaste] Several laws now stipulate that only Republic of Estonia citizens may hold certain jobs. At the moment, these jobs are advocates, judges, police officers, as well as ship captains and aircraft pilots. It is likely that the circle of such jobs will expand. As the Supreme Council adopted a resolution on the implementation of the citizenship law—so that it reactivated the 1938 citizenship law—persons holding these jobs at the moment will not be granted citizenship immediately. At the same time, they would not be able to continue work, in a way.

A legal conflict of a kind arises: They should be dismissed straight away. Now, so as to regulate the issue from the legal point of view in some way or another, we—together with Mart Laar and Jaak Joeruut—presented a draft resolution on employment guarantees. The point of it was to select a date by which they would have to hand in an application for citizenship, and what would happen next. The resolution is nice and short: to allow those individuals who are not Republic of Estonia citizens to continue work in jobs which require citizenship in the Republic of Estonia until 31 December 1993, provided they have applied for citizenship in the Republic of Estonia by 31 December 1992, in the manner set down by law.

The reaction from the floor last week was very surprising. Opposition emerged, first and foremost on the part of the popular central faction and the Russian deputies. Vladimir Lebedev, Supreme Council member called it a provocation, the draft resolution constituting an option for specialists: should they apply for citizenship or not? Evidently a large section of the specialists will be opting for Republic of Estonia citizenship.

The adoption of the resolution will ease tensions. This is not acceptable to some people.

[Paal] What would have happened if today the resolution had again failed to be adopted?

[Hallaste] I fear that a kind of legal vacuum would have continued. From a legal point of view, one should have dismissed all advocates, all judges, all policemen who are not Republic of Estonia citizens, starting tomorrow. However, they will be able to continue at their posts and make the decision if they want Republic of Estonia citizenship, then take a language test, or they would give up the job which calls for citizenship. [passage omitted]

Fuel Oil Situation in Tallinn Updated

LD2504183192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] According to the press service of the Tallinn city government, Tallinn heating headquarters has decided to reduce the temperature of running hot water from 50 to 45 degrees [centigrade]. At a sitting at the headquarters it was noted that thermal stations in Tallinn are working at a critical border. This has been reported by the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE. At Iru thermal power station, which heats a large section of Tallinn, there is enough fuel only for four days; 1,800 tonnes of fuel is on the way to Tallinn; this will suffice for two or three days. There are hopes to receive 1,500 tonnes of fuel oil from Yaroslavl. This would enable Tallinn to survive until May.

So far there has been success in providing running hot water in the city mainly thanks to using natural gas. The price of natural gas to be supplied to industry will soon probably rise to 5,400 rubles for a cubic meter [as heard]. Small boiler houses are struggling with shortages of fuel. For them yesterday, for example, only 40 tonnes of fuel oil was provided. Paraffin has run out; [word indistinct] lubrication oil is being used.

Latvia

Russian Envoy Criticizes Latvian Measures

LD2804223392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The Russian delegation to the talks with Latvia has raised the question of the immediate abolition of measures designed to impose some kind of customs procedures on Russian troops, since they are incompatible with the principle of sovereignty and the resulting immunity of the state. This was stated in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent by roving ambassador Sergey Zotov, the head of the Russian Federation's delegation at the talks with the Latvian Republic.

The Russian side is beginning to have doubts, the ambassador stressed, about whether Latvia still intends to seek a mutually acceptable accord on all questions during the talks that are taking place, or whether it sees in them a kind of screen under the cover of which attempts are being made to obtain something by one-sided measures. That was also a quotation.

The Russian diplomat described the steps taken by the Latvian authorities as being of a provocative nature. That too is a quotation. The Latvian side informed the Russian delegation that the question would soon be settled, Sergey Zotov said.

Withdrawal of Foreign Troops Discussed

OW2804174792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from issue No. 61 of the "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Parliament chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs regards the withdrawal of the former Soviet troops from the republican territory as the chief political issue. Speaking at an international seminar entitled "Stability And Security In The Baltic Region", organized buy the North Atlantic Assembly and the Latvian Supreme Soviet, he said that the Latvian government was aware of the problems before Russia in connection with the relocation to Russia of the families of 17,000 commissioned officers. He said, however, that the providing for the needs of commissioned officers is Russia's problem. He said that Latvia dismissed all "provisoes concerning Russian military strategic interests as Latvia cannot be a bridgehead for the protection of Russia against aggression by any other state."

Gorbunovs said that Latvia did not pretend to all the property of the army of the former USSR, it only wanted a return of a part that belonged to the Latvian armed forces before 1940.

IF's [INTERFAX] note: Participating in the seminar are NATO representatives, delegations of the North Atlantic Assembly, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine and Byelarus, and a delegation of the North Western group of troops under the command of the Colonel-General Valeriy Mironov.

EC Councillor Criticizes Citizenship Law

OW2404140192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1253 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Fridrih Vogel, a member of the European Council visiting Latvia, criticized the Latvian law on citizenship in an interview with Baltfax. He feels that many people in Latvia will be left without citizenship due to the naturalization process, which is to last 16 years. Mr. Vogel believes that people of Russian descent who are born and living in Latvia must not be forced to become citizens of Russia.

The law on citizenship, which was passed after its first reading in October 1991, requires a 16-year naturalization process, a Latvian language examination, and other prerequisites for people living in the country who are not of Latvian descent.

Rolands Rikards, one of the leaders of the "Satversme" faction-group, admitted that the law may be amended in accordance with the results of registration of Latvian residents, which should be completed by September 1.

Andrejs Pantelejevs, deputy chairman of the People's Front faction, believes that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Latvia must be hastened for the citizenship issue to be resolved democratically. "At the moment Russia is demonstrating a cynical reluctance to withdraw the troops. If Europe demands liberalism without demanding that Russia speed up the withdrawal of troops, then that could generate among the Latvian people unnecessary radicalism and lack of confidence in European structures," said Mr. Pantelejevs.

The European Council delegation is in Latvia to study how the country's laws correspond with international legal norms.

Finnish President Cited on Familiarization Visit

LD2504212492 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 0430 GMT 19 Apr 92

[Text] Last week began with a visit to Latvia by Finnish President Mauno Koivisto. For Latvia cooperation with Russia at the current time is more important than with other countries. This is what Finnish President Mauno Koivisto recognized at a news conference at the end of his visit to Latvia. He expressed a hope that the problems connected with the withdrawal of the Russian Army from the territory of Latvia will be solved in talks between Latvia and Russia, and will end with the conclusion of a cooperation treaty.

Mauno Koivisto emphasized that when meeting the representatives of the parliament and Government of Latvia he had heard how difficult it was to solve both army withdrawal and territorial problems. He noted that Finland will not demand from Russia those territories that Finland lost in World War Two. The Finnish president had come to Latvia only on a familiarization visit. He was not accompanied by representatives of the Finnish Government. Therefore, at the present moment no cooperation agreements were concluded between Finland and Latvia.

Lithuania

No Progress Reported on Meeting With Russians

OW2404211592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1915 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of the Lithuanian experts' delegation at talks with Russia on the withdrawal of troops, Minister Aleksandras Abisala stated that currently it is impossible to continue work on technical aspects of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Lithuania. Speaking to reporters Friday [24 April] after the third meeting with Russian colleagues in Vilnius, he said that first of all the Russian and Lithuanian delegations should "find solutions to political questions".

Abisala said that the Lithuanian side puts its hopes on the visit of Boris Yeltsin's special envoy, first deputy minister of foreign affairs Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev to Vilnius April 27.

According to Abisala, at the third meeting the Russian side raised new "unexpected and unacceptable to Lithuania questions", such as compensation for the property left by the Russian army in Lithuania.

Head of the Russian group of experts, ambassador Viktor Isakov told reporters after the meeting that Russia would not like to set terms for the withdrawal hastily, and then to violate them.

Speaking on Lithuanian TV, Abisala pointed out that the Lithuanian side considers terms of the withdrawal to be the main issue at the talks. "Therefore, if Russian representatives have no even mandates to discuss terms, it's rather hard to talk about other details", the minister noted. He said that the two sides had also failed to start discussing compensation for the losses inflicted to Lithuania by Soviet troops.

Foreign Military Helicopter Flights Banned

LD2804200492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Statement released by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania Information and Analysis Center for Public Relations]

[Text] The leadership of the Army of the former Soviet Union, illegally deployed in Lithuania, continues to ignore the demands of the Supreme Council chairman and the Defense Ministry for an end to the flying in of new military units, and for their immediate return to Russia.

Therefore, the chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council and the provisional defense leadership have instructed the Defense Ministry to ban flights over Lithuanian territory by foreign military helicopters, and to warn that this will also apply to other unsanctioned military flights. Those who break Lithuania's laws must take full responsibility for their actions.

The explanation by Panevezy's garrison commander Koleshnikov that the aircraft under his jurisdiction have the permission of the CIS Government to carry out flights is simply a provocation and a display of legal (?ignorance) which does not exempt him from responsibility, Vytautas Landsbergis noted.

Vaisvila Criticizes Prime Minister Vagnorius

OW2804222792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1846 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Vice Premier Zigmas Vaisvila, talking on the republican television this Monday [27 April], accused Prime Minister Gegiminas Vagnorius of the current government crisis. In his words, the Lithuanian Government crisis began last summer, and the blame for this crisis lies with the policy conducted by the Prime Minister rather than in the contradictions between the government and the parliament. Zigmas Vaisvila maintains that "the Premier won't count with the opinion expressed by specialists", [punctuation as received]

Practically all the decisions in the government are made by just three persons: the premier, Vice Premier Vytautas Pakalniskas and government Secretary Kestutis Cilinskas.

Government Departments To Cut Staffing Levels

LD2804205792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Report by presenter Gene Abraitiene]

[Text] The Lithuanian Government maintains that it is imperative to consistently carry out reform of the government apparatus.

I recall that the Supreme Council abolished the famous government decree No. 363, and the subsequent decree No. 378.

On 27 April, a new decree—No. 414-C—was adopted by the government; it was signed by Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius.

It is essentially the same decree as the previous one, except that it is more detailed.

Of course, experts might say that I am mistaken, since the other decree did not give as much detail, and perhaps add that I have not looked at it closely enough. However, I will cite what I think are the more important parts of this decree.

The decree notes that a change of government cadres in accordance with proper procedures—that some staff members are dismissed for (?inefficiency), for failing to observe discipline at work, for lacking the necessary qualifications, or for various other reasons—is a natural process, especially now, during a time of reform. In specific circumstances, it is not because of decisions of the Lithuanian Government that staff members are employed or dismissed, but because of guidelines, terms, and procedures established by law.

It is the decision of the Supreme Council and the Lithuanian Government that some staff will be dismissed to reduce establishments. No dismissals may be prompted by political motives. This process has but one purpose—to encourage qualified members of staff, who are conscientiously obeying the laws of the Lithuanian Republic and implementing the decisions of its government, to work within the executive administration.

Thus, to that things may progress correctly, the ministries, government services, and inspections must begin staff certification from 1 May, and must complete it within one month.

Certification commissions, comprised of five individuals, are being set up, and it will be they who decide the suitability or unsuitability of individuals for positions being filled. The government service and inspection certification commissions will include a representative of the state control department and an appropriate government adviser, and the city administration certification commissions will include a consultant under the central privatization commission. They will make decisions regarding people's suitability.

I will now give details of this certification. The decision and the specific period of certification must be confirmed by the head of the organization which employs you.

First, I wish to note that this new decree does not permit certification to apply to pregnant women and mothers with children under three years of age.

Also, there are indications of how many staff members should be dismissed: in the Ministry of Trade and Material Resources, not more than 50 percent of the cadres; in the Ministry of the Economy, Industrial Department and the Price and Competition Departments, not more than 40 percent of the cadres.

In the Ministry of Health Protection and the Ministry of Social Security, the dismissal of cadres will be achieved simply by merging these ministries.

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, the dismissal of staff members will be dealt with separately.

In general, cadres of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Defense will not be affected.

This process should ensure a 15 percent decrease in the number of cadres in the Lithuanian government apparatus.

For those of you who are interested, a very detailed and complete description will be published in LIETUVOS AIDAS.

Russian Enterprises Owe Over 5 Billion Rubles

OW2504174592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1429 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian enterprises owe to Lithuania more than 5 billion rubles, of them 1 billion 131 million to light industry enterprises, nearly 200 million—to the Vilnius plant making fuel equipment. This was said in a telegram sent by Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius to first vice-premier of the Russian government Yegor Gaydar.

The telegram also points to frequent disruptions in supplies of products and delays in payments.

In this connection, the Lithuanian government asks Gaydar to promote normalization of payments for Lithuanian products. A copy of the telegram was sent to the Russian Central Bank.

Legislator Announces 'Center Party' Debut

LD2504025692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2130 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] In his speech on Lithuanian TV Wednesday [22 April], MP Mecys Laurinkus said that a Center Party is

being created in Lithuania. According to Mecys Laurinkus, a decision to create this party has been made during a very hard time for Lithuania, when the economy is experiencing chaos and momentum, when disappointment is heard in the society, when personal initiative is weakening and competition between parties and social organizations threatens to become a war against everybody. The Center Party will strive towards a community of interests between the individual and state. The statement on creation of the Center Party is signed by MPs Egidijus Bickauskas, who is Lithuanian charge d'affaires in Moscow; Eugenijus Petrovas, who is member of the presidium of Lithuanian parliament; Romualdas Ozalas, ex-vice prime minister; and MP Petras Vaitiekunas. The fact that founders of the Center Party should not be related to the parliamentary center faction is also stressed in the statement.

Authorities Reject Swedish Compensation Offer

LD2504024992 Stockholm Radio Sweden in English 2100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Sweden has offered to give the Baltic countries Estonia and Lithuania more than $45,000,000 in compensation for gold deposits handed over to the Soviet Union in 1940, when the states were absorbed by Moscow. Lithuania has objected Sweden's offer to pay the money from its planned aid program for Central and Eastern Europe. Lithuania says the compensation should be in addition to any assistance.